

West Valley VIEW

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EMCC students comment on Brewer's veto of gun bill

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by **Shane McOwen**

special to the View

Arizona Senate Bill 1467, allowing concealed weapons on college campuses, was vetoed Monday by Gov. Jan Brewer.

At Estrella Mountain Community College, student reactions to the veto were mixed.

The bill would have required educational institutions to allow individuals with concealed carry permits to carry guns on campus. EMCC student Tiffany Milton said she supported the governor's decision.

"[Guns] absolutely should not be allowed, that is what security is for," Milton said.

Milton took issue not with the guns themselves, but with the location.

"I'm completely for people having their firearms for protecting their home," Milton said. "There isn't any need for guns on campus with so many security measures in place already."

Milton said now she doesn't have to be thinking about who may be carrying a weapon while on campus thanks to the veto.

Student Michelle Adams was a supporter of the bill, but only if proper training were taken.

"If you go through the training and the courses, then I can totally see reasoning for having a gun," Adams said. "It's a good idea, if you have to know how to use a gun."

Adams has a concealed weapons permit and carries a gun with her, but following the veto will still not be able to carry the weapon onto campus.

Student Shannon Knoop said she's heard of the idea of a crime being less likely committed if the criminal knows people in the vicinity could have a gun.

"I certainly would think twice about doing something illegal if I knew people were carrying guns around me," Knoop said, although she said she ultimately agreed with Brewer's decision to veto the bill.

The Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board and District Chancellor Rufus Glasper released a statement April 13 urging Brewer to veto the bill. The statement said a situation with additional armed people could result in further chaos and delay law enforcement.

Estrella Mountain Community College officials declined to comment on the matter and referred to Glasper and the board's statement.

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