

PRESS RELEASE
November 30, 2005

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, representing over 500 municipal police executives throughout the State is opposed to Assembly Bill 763 & Senate Bill 403 (Concealed Carry Bill). The membership of the WCPA made it extremely clear from the results of an extensive survey conducted by our association last year that our members are overwhelmingly opposed to changing a 133 year old public policy related to the public safety of the citizens we have taken an oath to protect.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association was pleased to learn that the sponsors of the proposed legislation have agreed to amend the current version of the bill to include a provision which would give law enforcement access to a data base of Concealed Carry Permit Holders.

Our association is extremely disappointed to learn that an additional provision is being added which would provide sanctions against a police officer under certain circumstances. The provision separates permit holders from the general public by making it a Class C misdemeanor should officers reveal the names of permit holders; build a list of permit holders, or uses excessive force when stopping a permit holder. This additional provision clearly suggests that the Wisconsin law enforcement community has such propensities and conveys a distrust and even paranoia of law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin have professional and ethical standards along with a code of conduct which guide their police officers to treat everyone equally. The provision suggests that permit holders should be treated differently than the general public.

The new provision also would restrict the information available to law enforcement to the very narrow circumstance of a traffic stop due to probable cause of a traffic law violation. Clearly officers stop vehicles for a wide variety of reasons that go well beyond traffic law violations including domestic situations, criminal activities, bar fights, warrant stops, etc. The new provision is clearly far too restrictive and limiting on law enforcement to be supported by our association.

Our association has expressed additional concerns over public safety including the provision of necessary training. The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association will continue to provide unbiased professional recommendations related to improving this proposed legislation based on good sound public safety policy practices.

Sincerely,

Edward Kondracki
President of WCPA