

TALKING POINTS FOR CCW

(August 25, 2003)

- The majority of Wisconsin residents do not support CCW. In a poll conducted by the Public Policy Forum (Wisconsin 10/98) only 16% of adults favor allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons.
- We live in one of the safest states in the country. The 2001 violent crime rate for the nation is 506 per 100,000 population, while Wisconsin enjoyed a rate of 231.
- Violent crime rates have dropped in our nation and Wisconsin over the past decade. Violent crime estimates in the U.S. in 2001 were 12.2% lower than the figure in 1997 and 25.7% below the 1992 estimate. (final data for 2002 is not yet available)
- Violent crime rates in Wisconsin decreased between 2000 and 2001 even while they increased for the Mid-west as a whole.
- Wisconsin has maintained these modest crime rates without concealed carry, why change a 130-year-old law that has served us so well for so long?
- Considerable research suggests that more guns may result in more crime. The Brookings Institute has released "Evaluating Gun Policy", by Ludwig & Cook. The book reports that researchers from Stanford and Yale (Ayres and Donohue) just replicated and extended concealed carry proponent John Lott's main study. According to the research, Lott's work was deeply flawed and he was mistaken in his interpretation of the data. They concluded that more guns will not reduce crime and, if anything, may increase it.*(See list of other researchers)
- Crime rates are affected by a variety of variables, such as poverty, educational opportunities, the economy, and substance abuse. To claim that any single initiative like CCW drive crime rates down is an over-simplification of a complex issue.
- While police officers receive extensive initial and on-going training, permit holders would only be required to receive very limited one-time training on the use of firearms.
- Our communities include many people who will qualify for a permit under this proposal that seriously lack the emotional stability, temperament, demeanor, and judgement to be trusted with carrying a concealed weapon and making instantaneous decisions about ending a human life.
- The Personal Protection Act would make it legal to carry concealed weapons in stores, churches, restaurants, banks, malls, hospitals, daycare centers, and most other places we frequent in our day to day lives.
- Public safety will not be enhanced if concealed firearms are carried by individuals during heated arguments between motorists, in crowded stores, or where a police officer makes a traffic stop.
- Officers approaching someone with a concealed weapon will be unclear about the threat they are confronted with.
- Several studies have shown that firearms purchased for self-defense are far more likely to take the life of a loved one by accidents, suicide, and homicides among

family, relatives and acquaintances than to kill a criminal. One study revealed that for every case of self-protection homicide involving a firearm kept in the home, there were 1.3 accidental deaths, 4.6 criminal homicides, and 37 suicides involving firearms.**

- The Personal Protection Act would allow all permit holders from other states to carry concealed weapons in our communities, regardless of the issuing state's license holder qualifications, background checks, or training requirements.
- The Personal Protection Act would allow concealed weapons to be carried on the grounds and buildings of technical colleges and universities. This means that concealed guns could be legally carried in the dormitories, classrooms, and cafeterias of any these public or private colleges.

*** “[T]his analysis produced little evidence that shall-issue laws reduce crime and suggest that these laws are as likely to cause crime to increase as to decrease.”**
Ludwig, J. (1998). “Concealed-Gun-Carrying Laws and Violent Crime: Evidence from State Panel Data.” *International Review of Law and Economics* 18:239-254.

*** Advocates of shall issue laws argue that they will prevent crime, and suggest that they have reduced homicides in areas that adopted them.” [Our] analysis provides no support for the idea that the laws reduced homicides: instead, it finds evidence of an increase in firearm murders.”**
McDowall, D., C. Loftin, and B. Wiersema. (1995). “Easing Concealed Firearms Laws; Effects on Homicide in three States.” *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 86(1):193-206.

*** “[T]here is no evidence that carrying a concealed weapon has a deterrent effect.”**
Gary Kleck as quoted in : Baker, D.P., J. W. Fountain, “Va. Concealment Issue Reveals a Twist in Annual Gun Debate,” The Washington Post, February 15, 1995, pp. B1, B5.

** Kellermann, A.L., Reay, D.T., (1986). Protection or Peril? An Analysis of Firearm-Related Deaths in the Home. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 314:1557-1560.