



Reject Wisconsin SB 169 / AB 247: Concealed Handguns in Public with No Permit / Guns in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools

- ❑ **Bottom Line:** The gun lobby is pushing dangerous legislation in Wisconsin that would let people carry hidden, loaded handguns in public without a permit, and also allow people to carry hidden, loaded handguns inside elementary, middle and high schools. Dismantling the permit requirement would lower the bar for who may carry concealed handguns in public in Wisconsin, and allow people with no safety training to carry hidden, loaded handguns in crowded town centers and on city streets. Teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns into schools. Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject permitless carry in Wisconsin.
- ❑ **The vast majority of states require that a person get a permit before carrying a concealed gun in public.**
 - In the vast majority of US states, including Wisconsin, a person must have a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public. These laws ensure that core public safety standards are preserved when people carry guns in public places.
 - Permitless carry bills seek to repeal these important public safety laws, and allow people to carry concealed handguns in public without a permit or criminal background check.
 - **Eighty-eight percent** of Americans think that a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public.¹
- ❑ **Permitless carry would dramatically lower the bar for who can carry a concealed handgun in public in Wisconsin—to include people with no safety training, teenagers, and people who have never passed criminal background checks.**
 - **No firearms training:** Most states require a handgun safety course before a person can get a permit and carry a concealed handgun. Under current Wisconsin law, applicants must complete handgun safety training to qualify for concealed weapons licenses.² But under permitless carry, people who have never completed safety training would be allowed to carry hidden, loaded handguns on our city streets.
 - **Teenagers:** Under current Wisconsin law, people under the age of 21 are ineligible for concealed weapons licenses.³ But under permitless carry, 18 to 20-year-olds—an age group that commits gun homicides at a rate **over four times higher** than adults 21 and older⁴—would be allowed to carry hidden, loaded handguns throughout the state.
 - **No background check:** In Wisconsin, as in the vast majority of US states, an applicant for a concealed weapons license must pass a criminal history check to ensure that he or she is not a felon, domestic abuser, person with dangerous mental illness, or otherwise legally prohibited from having a gun.⁵ But permitless carry would remove this important safeguard and allow unvetted people to legally carry hidden, loaded handguns in public.
- ❑ **SB 169 / AB 247 would allow civilians to carry hidden, loaded handguns in Wisconsin elementary, middle, and high schools.** Under current law, generally only trained law enforcement and security officers can carry guns in schools. But SB 169 / AB 247 would change the law and to allow civilians to carry hidden, loaded handguns on school property.
 - **Teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns in schools.**



- The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation's two largest teachers' organizations, oppose allowing guns in schools.⁶
- The federal government's chief legal, law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies all agree that allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice.⁷
- **Schools are already extremely safe.**
 - On average, only 1 percent of all homicides of school-age children occur on school grounds, on the way to or from school, or during a school sponsored event.⁸
 - There is approximately one homicide of a school-age youth at school per 1.8 million enrolled students.⁹
 - "Active shooter" incidents, like those at Sandy Hook School and Columbine High School, are extremely rare.¹⁰
- **The focus on arming school employees ignores the risks and consequences of bringing more guns onto school grounds.**
 - Everytown has tracked 113 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school campuses since 2013. Of those shootings, over 1 in 10 were **unintentional shootings**, and more than 1 in 6 incidents began as **a verbal altercation that escalated** because of the presence of a gun. Introducing guns on school campuses increases the potential for such tragedies.¹¹
 - Schools that have allowed employees to carry guns have seen difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage. Some liability insurance providers have declined coverage to these schools while others have increased annual premiums, stretching already tight budgets.¹²
- **The gun lobby uses fear of "active shooter" situations to justify these policies, but arming civilians is not an effective way to stop an active shooter.**
 - Even police officers, with all their training and frequent exposure to high-risk and life-threatening events, do not always shoot accurately in a crisis encounter. Research casts significant doubt on the idea that civilians could shoot as well as trained police officers in an active shooter situation.¹³

¹ Strategies 360 Survey, March 2015.

² Wis. Stat. § 175.60(3)(g).

³ Wis. Stat. § 175.60(3)(a).

⁴ FBI Supplementary Homicide Report, 2010-2014, and US Census Population Data, 2010-2014. Persons aged 18-20 make up 4.24% of the US population and were the primary offenders in 17.16% of all gun homicides for which the age of the offender was known. Adults aged 21 and over make up 73.69% of the population and were the primary offenders in 76.24% of all gun homicides for which the age of the offender was known.

⁵ Wis. Stat. § 175.60(9), (9g).

⁶ "AFT, NEA: Arming Teachers Won't Keep Schools Safe, Dec. 20, 2012, available at: <http://www.nea.org/home/53943.htm>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Education, et.al, "Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, 2012, available at: http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_k-12_Guide_508.pdf.

⁸ Digest of education statistics, 2015. Table 228.10: School-associated violent deaths of all persons, homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18 at school, and total homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18, by type of violent death: 1993-93 to 2012-13. National Center for Education Statistics; http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_228.10.asp. Accessed November 28, 2016.

⁹ Zhang, A., Musu-Gillette, L., and Oudekerk, B.A. (2016). Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015 (NCES 2016-079/NCJ 249758). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC., at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016079.pdf>. Digest of education statistics, 2015.



National Center for Education Statistics; date unknown.

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_105.20.asp?current=yes. Accessed November 28, 2016. In the school year 2012-13, 31 homicides and 6 suicides of school age youth took place at school. In this academic year, 55 million students were enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.

¹⁰ Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "School Shootings in America

¹¹ Everytown for Gun Safety. Analysis of the Everytown School Shooting Index, Guns in Public Places. <http://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>. Published 2016. Accessed November 14, 2016.

¹² NY Times, Seven Yaccino, "Schools Seeking to Arm Employees Hit Hurdle on Insurance", July 7, 2013, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/08/us/schools-seeking-to-arm-employees-hit-hurdle-on-insurance.html>.

¹³ White MD. Hitting the target (or not): Comparing characteristics of fatal, injurious, and noninjurious police shootings. *Police quarterly*. 2006;9(3):303-330; Nieuwenhuys A, Oudejans RàUR. Effects of anxiety on handgun shooting behavior of police officers: A pilot study. *Anxiety, Stress, & Coping*. 2010;23(2):225-233.