

To: Judiciary Senate Committee

March 9th, 2002 SB357
apt 3
50

Because of the weather I could not attend the senate hearing today. I am writing this letter to let you know that I am for the PPA and I would like ~~to~~ to have Bill # 357 Pass. Thank you

Kenny Simington
805 Barland St.
Eau Claire Wi. 54701

Norma J. Williams

NRA Life Member

NRA Certified Instructor

• *Pistol and Personal Protection*
• *Home Firearms Safety* • *Shotgun* • *Rifle*

Phone/Fax: 715-425-5008

e-mail: nwilliam@presenter.com

To: Senate Judiciary committee

From: Norma J. Williams, President
Women's Firearms Alliance of Wisconsin
495 130th St.
Roberts WI 54023

715-425-5008

Date: 09 March 2002

Re: Senate Bill 357

Gentlemen:

As president of a women's group that is pro-active in supporting the right to carry a concealed firearm in Wisconsin, I appeal to each of you to support SB 357. Please look at this from a woman's perspective. Possibly she has been assaulted or raped and lives in fear every day of her life. Possibly she is a single mom and has no choice but to work late and drive alone. The very nature of being female places her at a disadvantage. Her assailant, who is male 87% of the time, is larger, stronger and more aggressive. She is a statistic waiting to happen. Police cannot protect her all hours of the day. Her only right is to be a victim.

With the proper background check and the proper training she should be allowed the right to protect herself and her children. The Women's Firearms Alliance of Wisconsin is "an independent network of women dedicated to preserving the right to choose firearm ownership for recreation, sport and SELF-PROTECTION, and to promoting increased awareness and education about the responsible use of firearms."

This legislation should be called the "Equal Opportunity Bill" as it will allow an equal opportunity of self protection to every person in Wisconsin - the disabled, the disadvantaged, the elderly, the weak, and all men and WOMEN, regardless of race, religion or life style. It is the right of self -defense outside the home.

We appeal to each of you to give this legislation a fair hearing and allow SB 357 to be debated on the floor of the Senate.

Norma J. Williams

**LABORATORIES OF DEMOCRACY**

Policy Review
July-August 1996, Number 78

The Untold Triumph of Concealed-Carry Permits by David Kopel
Citizen Initiatives Fertilize the Grass Roots by Lawrence W. Reed

The Untold Triumph of Concealed-Carry Permits

by **David Kopel**

In recent years, the debate over gun policy has been dominated by two federal initiatives: the Brady bill's waiting period for the purchase of handguns and the ban on so-called assault weapons. While these federal issues have riveted the nation's attention, however, a quiet revolution in gun policy has spread throughout the states.

Ten years ago, only a half-dozen states routinely issued permits for trained citizens to carry concealed handguns for personal protection. Most states gave police departments wide latitude to issue such permits, which were rarely given to persons other than retired police officers and people with political connections. Today, however, 30 states comprising half the nation's population grant concealed-carry permits to law-abiding citizens. In the long run, this movement will be far more significant than either the Brady waiting period (which expires in 1998) or the ban on certain semiautomatics (which expires in 2004).

This movement began in the early 1980s, when gun-rights activists in Florida joined with law-enforcement lobbies such as the Florida Chiefs of Police Association to reform the state's handgun law. They proposed legislation that entitled any citizen who clears a fingerprint-based background check and passes gun-safety classes to receive a permit to carry a concealed handgun for protection.

Although the legislature passed the concealed-carry bill several times, it was vetoed repeatedly by Democratic governor Bob Graham. But his successor, Republican governor Bob Martinez, signed the bill in 1987. Since then, a steady progression of states has adopted concealed-carry laws modeled on Florida's, and more are likely to follow.

Whenever a state legislature first considers a concealed-carry bill, opponents typically warn of horrible consequences: Permit holders will slaughter each other in traffic disputes, while would-be Rambos shoot bystanders in incompetent attempts to thwart crime. But within a year of passage, the issue usually drops off the news media's radar screen, while gun-control advocates in the legislature conclude that the law wasn't so bad after all.

In some respects, the concealed-carry movement has become a women's issue. In fact, about a quarter of those who apply for and receive carry permits are women. When Alaska governor Walter Hickel signed concealed-carry legislation in 1993, he explained that the constituents he found most compelling were "the women who called and said they worked late and had to cross dark parking lots, and why couldn't they carry a concealed gun?"

Leading advocates for concealed-carry laws include female victims of crime such as

Suzanna Gratia Hupp, whose parents were murdered five years ago in a mass killing in Killeen, Texas; Rebecca John Wyatt, the founder of Safety for Women and Responsible Motherhood; and Marion Hammer, the new president of the National Rifle Association and an activist in the Florida concealed-carry debate. Hammer once brandished her handgun to ward off a gang of would-be robbers.

Has this movement toward concealed-carry laws made America safer or more dangerous? In an article for the *Tennessee Law Review*, historian Clayton Cramer and I examined homicide rates in states that had adopted concealed-carry laws, adjusted for the effects of national homicide trends. In all but one state we examined, homicide rates did not appear to change as a result of the laws. We saw fluctuations, of course, but nothing out of the ordinary.

The lone exception was Florida, where the murder rate started an immediate, steady decline. Before the law, Floridians were about 36 percent more likely to be murdered than other Americans; after a few years, the Florida rate was equal to or slightly less than the national rate. As for other violent crimes, Florida was the worst state in the nation both before and after the new law. Florida's overall violent-crime rate, however, rose much more slowly since 1987 than did the national violent-crime rate.

We also examined violent-crime data in California, where permit policies vary widely by county. Counties that issue permits liberally had lower violent-crime rates than counties with restrictive policies; restrictive counties had lower rates than counties with prohibitive policies. A graduate student at Southwest Texas State University compared states that adopted concealed-carry laws with demographically similar states that did not. This study found strong support for the hypothesis that concealed-carry laws reduce the homicide rate, and weak (but still positive) support for a reduction in robbery and serious assault.

Advocates of gun-control advocates sometimes cite a 1995 study of concealed-carry policies by three researchers from the University of Maryland. The study looked at five urban areas and found that in four of them, the handgun homicide rate rose after a concealed-carry law had been enacted. But David McDowall, one of the authors, says that the small set of data limits the conclusions to be drawn from the study. He also states that there is no evidence permit holders commit crimes. The study is a classic illustration of how changing the parameters of a "before-and-after" analysis can change the results. For each city, McDowall and his colleagues averaged the yearly crime rates from 1973 until the year before the law went into effect, and compared that figure to the average rate of all subsequent years. If, instead, we compare the year before the law went into effect with the most recent year for which we have complete data (1994), then the homicide rate declined in three of the five cities.

All of the research about concealed-carry laws has been eclipsed by a comprehensive study by University of Chicago law professor John Lott, with graduate student David Mustard. Examining crime data for 3,054 counties, Lott and Mustard found that while concealed-carry reform had little effect in rural counties, in urban counties reform was followed by a substantial reduction in homicide and other violent crimes such as robbery. At the same time, there was a statistically significant rise in nonconfrontational property crimes, such as larceny and car theft. Apparently many criminals concluded that the risks of encountering a victim who could fight back had become too high.

Lott and Mustard estimated that if all states that did not have concealed carry laws in 1992 adopted such laws, there would be approximately 1,800 fewer murders and 3,000 fewer rapes annually. Thus the adoption or improvement of concealed carry laws in more than a dozen states since 1992 may be one of several causes for the current decline in murder rates.

Of course, data alone cannot measure the benefits of concealed-carry reform. If a gun permit helps a woman feel safe enough to go jogging, her increased sense of security is an important social benefit--even if she never has to draw a gun. If she does encounter a criminal, the chances are small that she will actually have to fire, and less than 1 percent that he will take the gun away. In the most thorough study ever done on this subject, Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck found that most instances of a citizen drawing a gun in self-defense end with the assailant simply retreating.

Although solid proof of the effect of concealed-carry laws in reducing violent crime is relatively recent, it has long been clear that they do not threaten public safety. The most detailed information we have about the behavior of such permit holders comes from Dade County, Florida.

When Florida's law went into effect, Miami's police chief ordered his officers to compile detailed reports of all police encounters with permit holders. In Miami, the number of permits increased from 1,200 in September 1987 to 21,092 in August 1992, when the police department decided that the behavior of permit holders did not merit further study. In five years, permit holders were convicted in these instances of criminal misuse of a firearm: two cases of aggravated assault involving a firearm, one case of armed trespass, and one case of a motorist shooting at another driver. In addition, one permit holder unthinkingly attempted to enter the secure area at Miami's airport with a firearm in her purse, and another accidentally shot himself in the leg.

The Dade County police also recorded the following incidents involving defensive use of licensed concealed firearms: two robbery cases in which the permit holder produced a firearm and the robbers fled; two cases involving permit holders who intervened to attempt to stop a robbery, but the robbers were not apprehended (and no one else was hurt); one robbery victim whose gun was seized by the robber; a man who shot a pit bull that was attacking him; two cases of a citizen capturing a burglar; three cases of a burglar who was frightened off but not captured; one case of thwarted rape; and a bail bondsman who fired two shots at a fleeing bail-jumper wanted for armed robbery. There were no reports of permit holders shooting innocent people by accident.

In Florida as a whole, 315,000 permits had been issued by December 31, 1995. Only five had been revoked because the permit holder committed a violent crime with a gun.

Permit holders are not angels, but they are an unusually law-abiding collection of citizens. In Florida, for example, permit holders are about 300 times less likely to perpetrate a gun crime than Floridians without permits. Florida's experience has been copied nationwide. This should not be at all surprising: A person could carry a concealed handgun without a permit and, unless he gives himself away by committing some other offense, he would never be caught. Hence permit applicants tend to be those citizens willing to pay a large fee (usually more than \$100) to comply with a law they could probably break with impunity.

Although 1 to 4 percent of the adult population exercises the freedom to carry a handgun for protection, a much larger group believes they should have such a choice. Polls usually show that one-half to two-thirds of the population supports concealed-carry laws. Higher rates are reported when respondents are informed about the various restrictions--such as training requirements--typically included in concealed-carry laws. These laws appeal to citizens who object neither to gun ownership nor to the use of force in self-defense, yet welcome moderate regulation to screen out undesirables.

Similarly, law-enforcement organizations in many states have supported concealed-carry laws. In Colorado, 53 of the state's 63 sheriffs voluntarily issue carry permits to citizens who pass a background check--even in liberal Boulder County. As these peace officers recognize, the government cannot in practice guarantee the safety of citizens in their daily lives. Therefore government must not prevent a responsible, trained individual from seeking to protect herself.

The concealed-carry movement is based on the principle that responsible citizens should not expect government to provide them with the essentials of life. Providing for the safety of one's self and one's family is first of all a personal duty.

Of course, everyone is a potential beneficiary of concealed-carry reform. Since criminals do not know which of their potential victims may be armed, even persons without carry permits would enjoy increased safety from any deterrent effect. Moreover, a Psychology Today study of "good Samaritans" who came to the aid of violent-crime victims found that 81 percent were gun owners, and many of them carried guns in their cars or on their persons.

Concealed-carry reform is no panacea for the high rates of crime in this nation, but it will be an important component of an anticrime strategy based on the right and duty of good citizens to take responsibility for public safety.

David Kopel is the research director of the Independence Institute, in Golden, Colorado.

Citizen Initiatives Fertilize the Grass Roots **By Lawrence W. Reed**

There may be no better barometer of citizen involvement in politics than ballot initiatives, and this year's bountiful crop suggests that activism at the state level is surging. Grass-roots conservative activists are not waiting for the Republican Congress to take up their causes. From school choice to tax cuts to affirmative action, ballot issues backed by conservatives seem to outnumber liberal causes for the first time in recent elections.

Initiatives reach state ballots after aroused citizens surmount an obstacle course of petition requirements, filing deadlines, and occasional court or legislative challenges. Designed to amend state constitutions or enact statutory law, they allow disaffected voters in the 24 states that permit them to vent their frustrations and allow activists to force reforms past unwilling legislators.

From 1981 through 1992, according to the Council of State Governments, 346 initiatives appeared on state ballots--more than in the previous 40 years. Eighty-eight more

CONCEALED CARRY BY STATE

The term **SHALL ISSUE** means that a permit to carry a concealed firearm **SHALL** be issued to anyone meeting the requirements provided by the state statute. These requirements vary by state but include minimum age, training, background check, photo ID/license, etc. If you meet these stringent requirements as set forth by statute you **SHALL** be issued a license. Thirty-three states provide this **RIGHT** to their citizens.

States that are Shall-Issue

1. Alabama	8. Idaho	15. Montana	21. Oklahoma	28. Utah
2. Alaska	9. Indiana	16. Nevada	22. Oregon	29. Vermont
3. Arizona	10. Kentucky	17. New Hampshire	23. Pennsylvania	30. Virginia
4. Arkansas	11. Louisiana	18. New Mexico	24. S. Carolina	31. Washington
5. Connecticut	12. Maine	19. N. Carolina	25. S. Dakota	32. W. Virginia
6. Florida	13. Michigan	20. N. Dakota	26. Tennessee	33. Wyoming
7. Georgia	14. Mississippi		27. Texas	

The term **MAY ISSUE** means that a permit to carry a concealed firearm **MAY** be issued at the discretion of an official granted this power by state statute (usually a Sheriff or Judge). If you are a friend of the granting official or can convince the official you have a need to carry you **MAY** be granted this **PRIVILEGE**. You are at the mercy of an individual. Training is not a requirement. In many of the eleven states in this category it is nearly impossible to obtain a permit unless you are famous, i.e. anti-gun Senator Dianne Feinstein in California.

States that are May-Issue

1. California – very difficult	5. Iowa	9. New Jersey
2. Colorado	6. Massachusetts – very difficult	10. New York (not NYC)
3. Delaware	7. Maryland – very difficult	11. Rhode Island
4. Hawaii – very difficult	8. Minnesota	

The term **WILL NOT ISSUE** means that there is no statutory provision in state law that would permit a private citizen to carry a concealed firearm for ANY reason. You will not under any circumstance be allowed to carry a concealed firearm and to do so is a violation of state law. You have **NO RIGHT or PRIVILEGE** to carry. **Unfortunately Wisconsin falls in this category.**

States that are Will Not Issue

1. Illinois	4. Nebraska	(Also Washington D.C.)
2. Kansas	5. Ohio	
3. Missouri	6. Wisconsin	

Date: 03/09/02

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Dennis P. Williams
495 130th St.
Roberts WI 54023
Tele: 715-425-5008

Subject: SB357

This proposed legislation, authored by Senator Dave Zein, is known as the Personal Protection Act, but could be known as the "Equal Opportunity Act". When passed, it will allow citizens the right to carry a concealed firearm after meeting statutory requirements including a strict background check, minimum age of 21, no history of additions to drugs or alcohol, no history of mental illness, misdemeanor violence or any felony. The applicant must pass a certified training and qualification course. This is a right enjoyed by law-abiding citizens of 33 other states. It is the right of self-defense outside your home. It will give all Wisconsin residents an equal opportunity to defend themselves.

The Personal Protection Act as proposed would make Wisconsin the 34th "Shall Issue State". In other words, if an applicant for a concealed carry permit meets the statutory requirements he or she shall be issued a permit.

Eleven other states are known as "May Issue States". Minnesota is an example. In a "May Issue State" an official (usually a judge or sheriff) is given the discretion to issue a permit to carry a concealed firearm. If you can justify a good enough reason, you may be issued a permit. This is not an individual right but a privilege granted.

Unfortunately, we here in Wisconsin reside in one of the remaining six states. These states are known as "Will Not Issue States". Law-abiding citizens have neither the right nor the privilege to carry a concealed firearm for any reason, and to do so is a violation of state law. The state effectively disarms and denies us the right of self-defense outside our homes.

Exhaustive studies conducted independently over the last 15 years by Harvard Professor John Lott and Florida State University professor Gary Kleck have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that states adopting legislation providing for legal concealed carry, such as SB 357/AB675, have experienced a dramatic reduction in crime. In every "Shall Issue State", FBI crime statistics prove every category of personal crime (rape, murder, assault, robbery) decreases.

Why have our legislators denied the people of Wisconsin the right of self-defense? Are we not as responsible as the citizens of Michigan? Are we not as smart as those from South Dakota? Why are the elderly, the disabled, the small and the weak made to live without the equality and security that the right to carry a concealed firearm would give them? Why do the officials we elect not trust qualified, trained law-abiding citizens the right enjoyed in 33 other states?

Space does not allow me to refute all the emotional myth and half-truths pedaled by opponents of the right to self-defense. Suffice it to say that not a single "Shall Issue State" has ever repealed its' statute, once passed. Why?... Because it works and is safe. Please educate yourself on this matter. Use logic and reason instead of emotion and political agenda. SB357/AB675 is an equal opportunity bill. It benefits all genders, all races and all lifestyles.

Please allow SB357 a fair hearing and allow it to be passed to the floor for open debate.



RUSSELL & DORIS ELLISON
N8579 Hay Creek Road
Willard, WI 54493-8903

Phone or Fax (715) 267-7284
e-mail: elli@badger.tds.net

March 9, 2002

Senator George:

We ask you to vote in favor of Senate Bill #357, Concealed Carry.

There have been many views and statistics brought forward during the proposal of this bill. One point that there are no statistics for but to us seems important is the number of crimes that don't happen because of the gun being a deterrent. We have talked with people from other states that have concealed carry laws and they tell you about crimes that have been prevented as soon as it becomes apparent that the intended victim has a weapon. We feel that Wisconsin law-abiding citizens should have this same protection.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Russ & Doris Ellison

Russ and Doris Ellison

The Right to Carry!

I recently had the privilege of attending Assembly Committee Hearings on Criminal Justice, Feb. 12 in Eau Claire and Feb. 14 in Waukesha.

I listened to a harrowing account of a woman stabbed and left for dead. Many testimonials about people murdered, robbed, assaulted with no means of self defense.

I myself testified in support of pending legislation. I am concerned of the erosion of our Constitutional right to bear arms. As the laws are presently written we do not have the right to self defense outside our own homes. Allow me to make some observations on this subject. I don't know why, but a percentage of mankind seems to be predisposed to commit violence! If it were possible to confiscate all guns, they would use knives. If we were to outlaw knives they would use clubs, etc... The world is becoming increasingly more violent.

In the United States, with the exception of the 33 states that have passed a law permitting the right to carry handguns. We have 3 factions that carry weapons.

1. **Federal Government**
2. **Police**
3. **Criminals**

Proposed Legislation will allow properly licensed, trained, background checked citizens the right to carry a concealed firearm.

This Legislation will not result in Dodge City shoot outs! I believe the Personal Protection Act (P.P.A.) Senate Bill 357 will fill the void when a police officer is not there. This Bill will serve as a deterrent to the criminal faction - not knowing who might have a gun. **All peer review studies** show that states that have passed Right to Carry Laws have reduced violent crime rates. All documented evidence is contrary to the assertions of opponents of SB357. Current Wisconsin Law does not give us the right to self defense. I urge all citizens to read proposed Legislation and contact your State Legislators in support of the P.P.A

I take great umbrage at being compared to a testosterone injected mentally deficient gun-toting lobbyist of the N.R.A. by some members of the News Media, anti-gun legislation individuals, who are in some of their opinions slightly devoid of common sense themselves.

Right to Carry

I am neither a Lobbyist nor a member of any pro-gun organization. I believe that very few if any of the people opposing this constitutionally guaranteed right have ever faced a situation where they are staring into the barrel of a gun!! I have!!

I believe you would have a different opinion as you see your life flash before you in a matter of seconds. Maybe you live in a country different from mine where most people still respect individual rights, property and a time when you could leave your doors unlocked. When you could leave your children to play unattended and your neighbors would come to your aid in times of peril. I am fortunate that I still live in a relatively safe area but that changes when I leave the security of my home. **Let me further state for the record** that Wisconsin's police force will never be able to adequately ensure the safety of its citizenry. **Anyone who believes otherwise is living in a world of delirium.**

Whether I choose to carry a firearm or not should be my prerogative. All people with evil intent are already carrying firearms. This does not enhance my safety, Senate Bill 375 will if properly implemented.

Chris Kulinski
W7407 County Line Road
Withee, WI 54498

Chris Kulinski

State of Wisconsin



GARY R. GEORGE
SENATOR

February 28, 2002

The Honorable Charles Chvala, Chairman
Committee on Senate Organization
Room 211 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Chvala:

I am writing to request authorization to take the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs and Campaign Finance Reform to the Eau Claire area for a public hearing on the afternoon of Saturday, March 9, 2002. The hearing will be held in the Eagles Club Building, located at 2588 Highway 53, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The main subject of the hearing will be proposed legislation (SB 357 and AB 675) relating to licenses to carry a concealed weapon, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, making appropriations, and providing penalties and legislation (AB 529) relating to retired peace officers carrying a weapon.

I request that all committee members be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses associated with their attendance at this meeting. I also request that the Committee Clerk and the committee's Legislative Council attorney be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses associated with their attendance at this meeting.

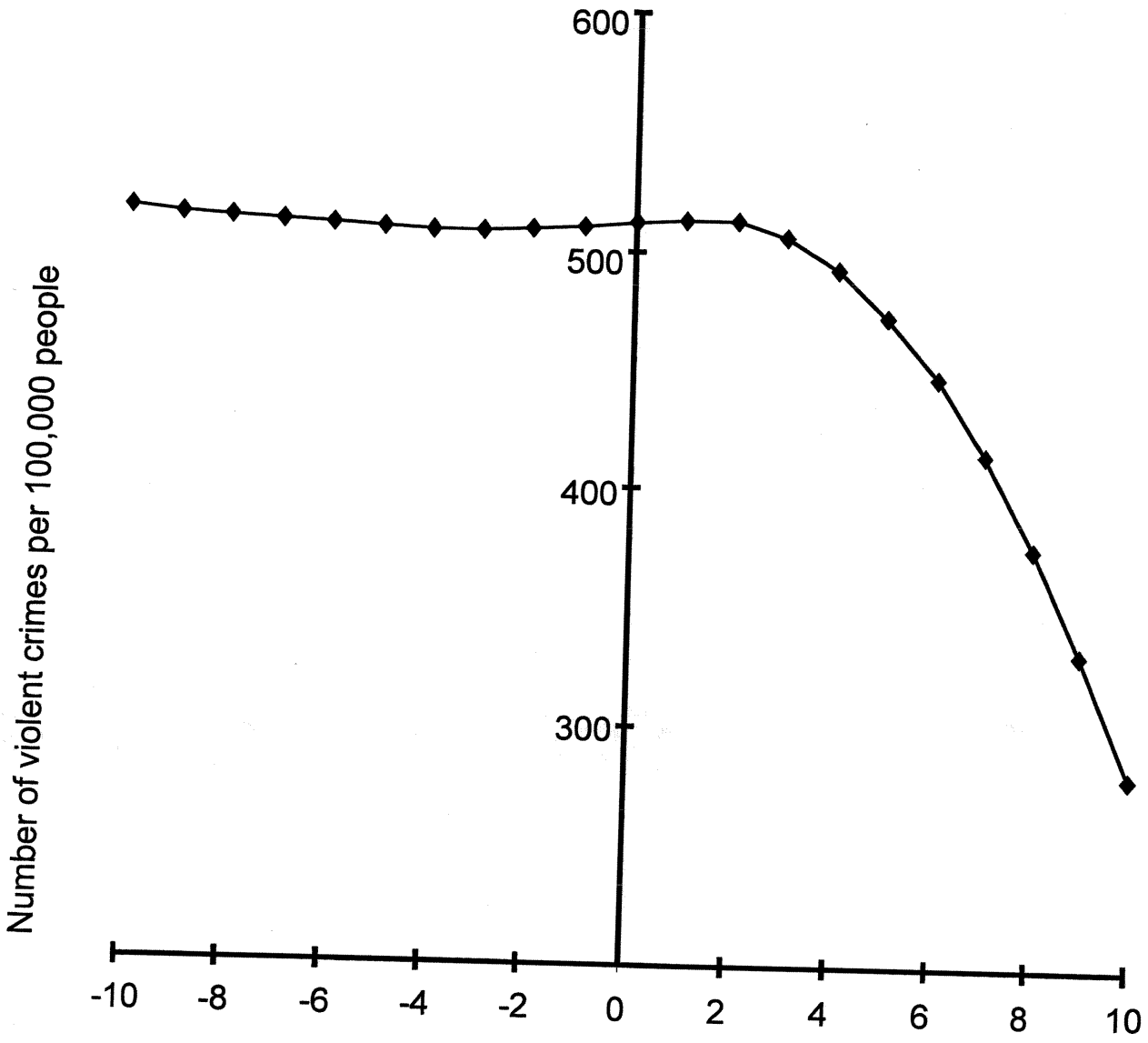
I further request that two members of the Senate Sergeant At Arms staff be provided as well a vehicle for their transportation. It is my present understanding that there is no charge for the use of the facility where the hearing will be held.

Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact my Chief of Staff, Dan Rossmiller, who serves as the Committee Clerk.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary R. George".

GARY R. GEORGE
State Senator
Sixth Senate District



Years before and after the adoption of concealed-handgun laws
Figure 9.1: The effect of concealed-handgun laws on violent crimes

Number of murders per 100,000 people

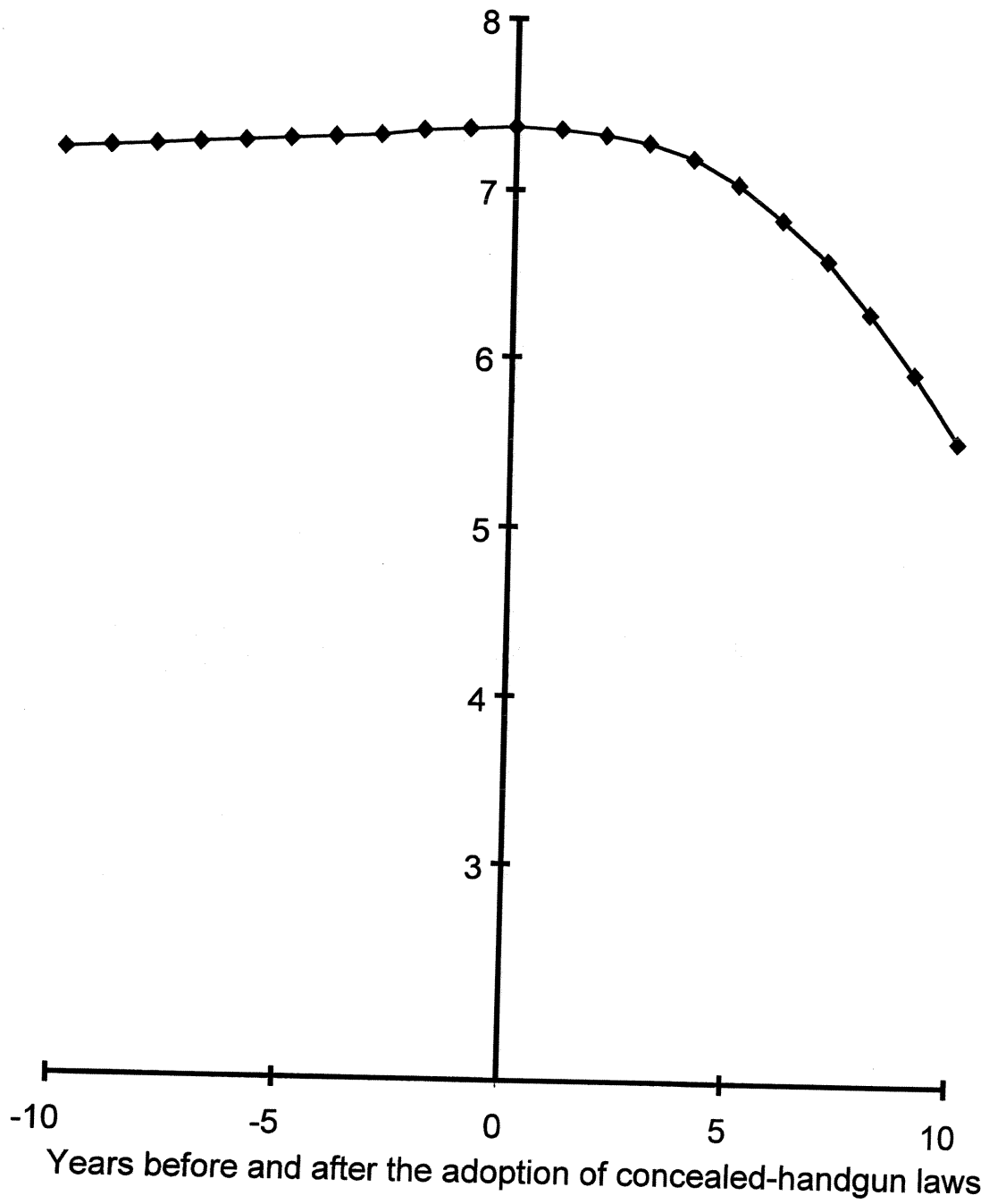
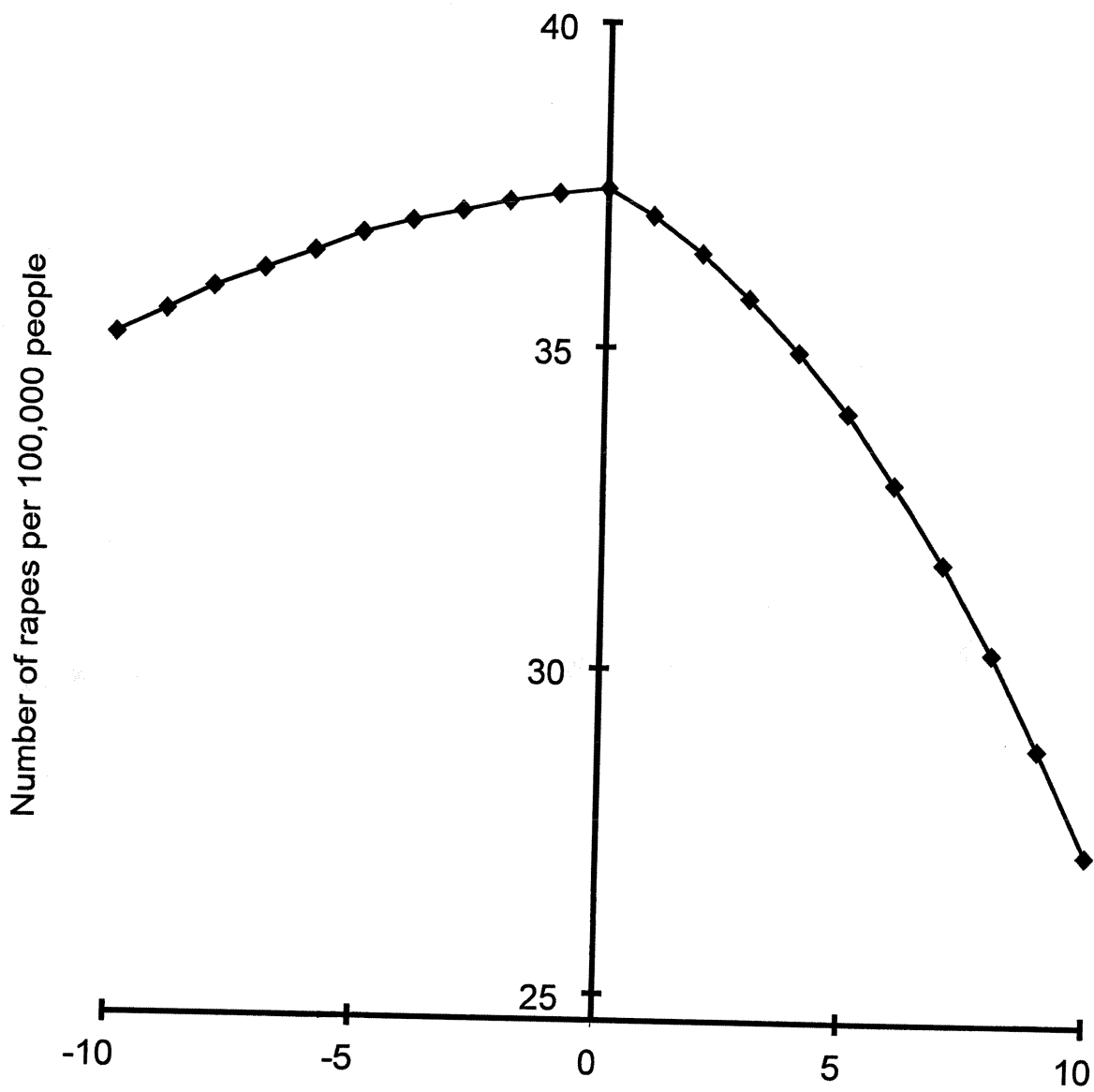
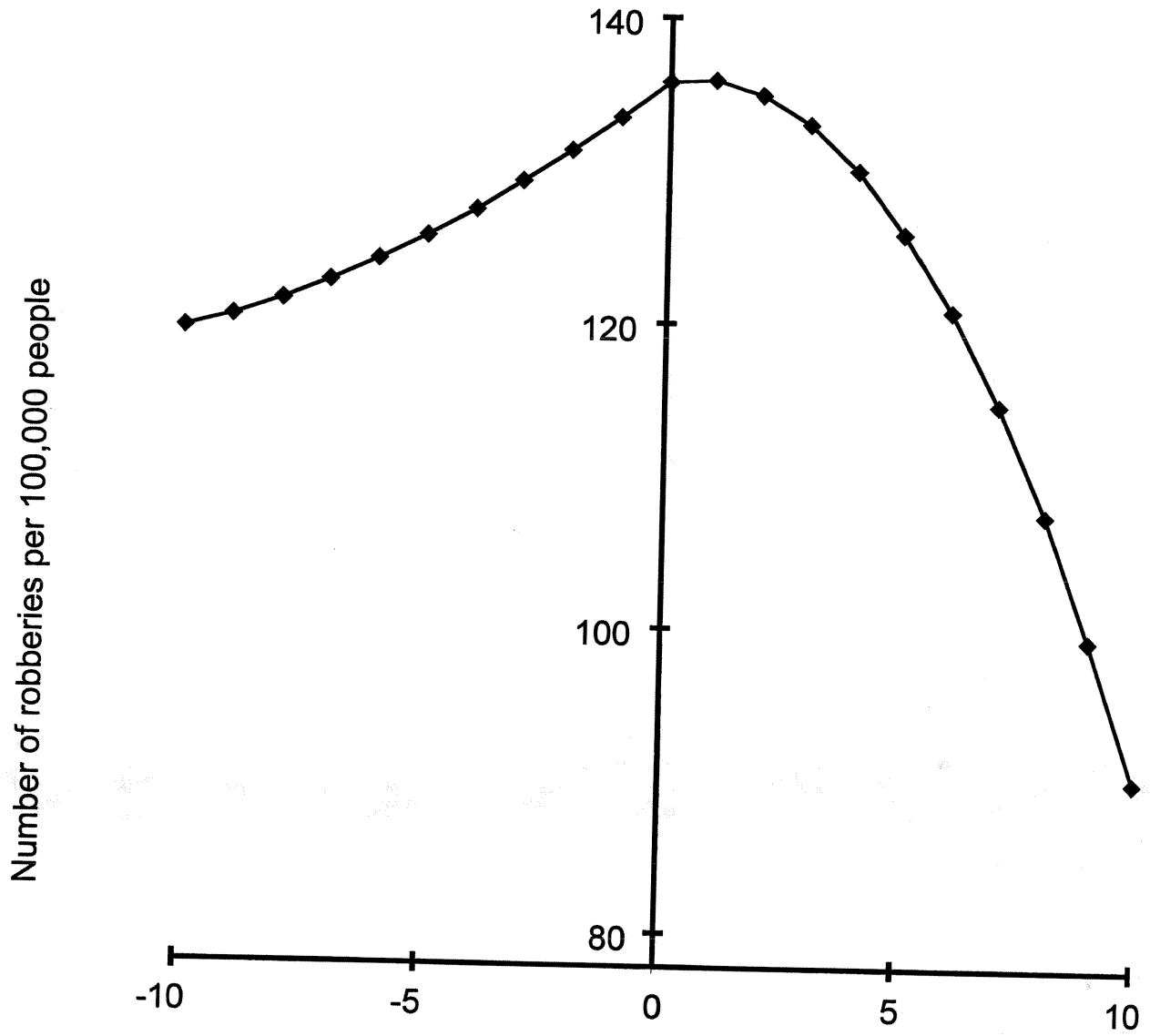


Figure 9.2: The effect of concealed-handgun laws on murders



Years before and after the adoption of concealed-handgun laws

Figure 9.3: The effect of concealed-handgun laws on rapes



Years before and after the adoption of concealed-handgun laws

Figure 9.4: The effect of concealed-handgun laws on robberies

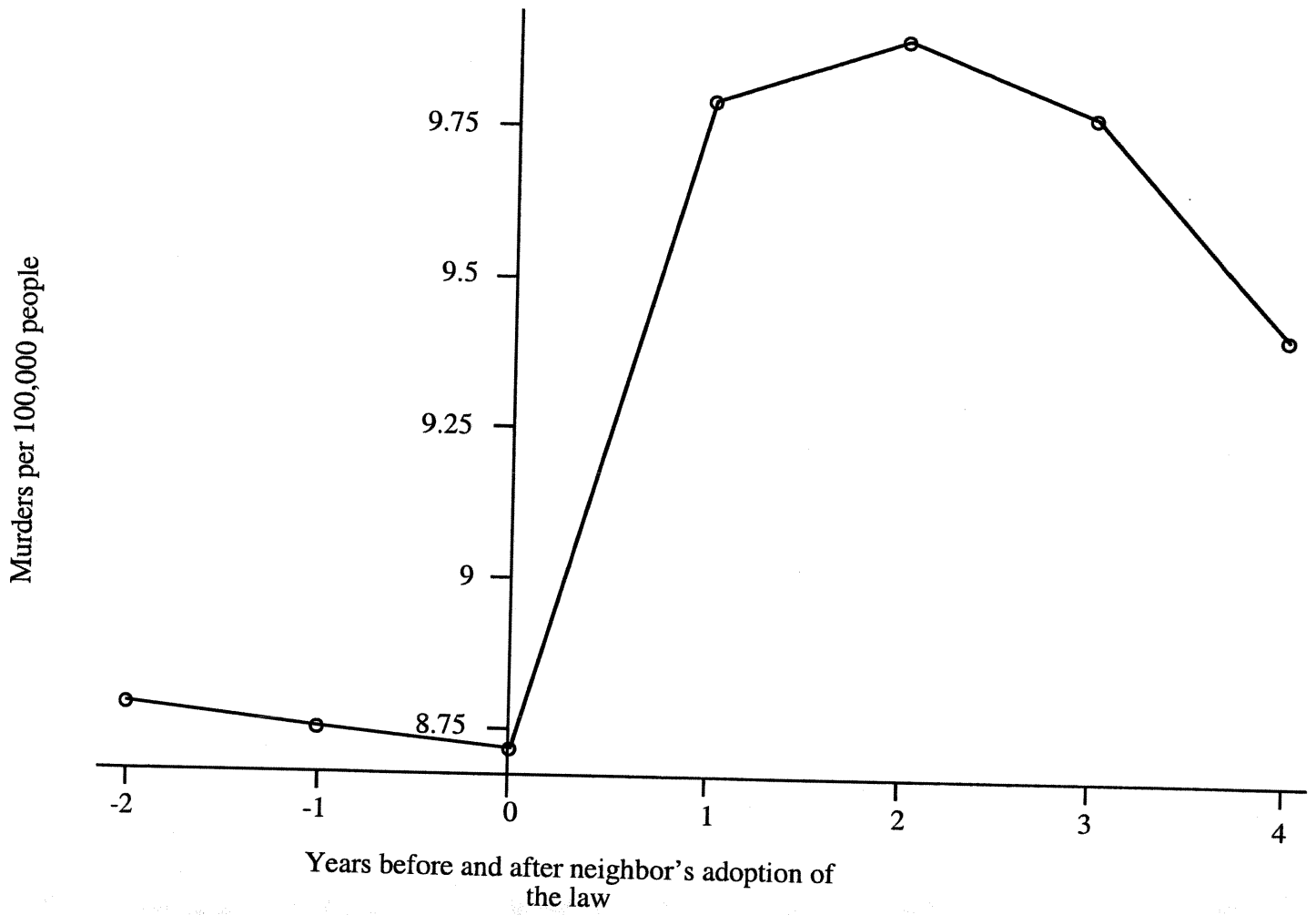


Figure 4.10: Impact on murder rate from a neighbor's adoption of nondiscretionary concealed-handgun law

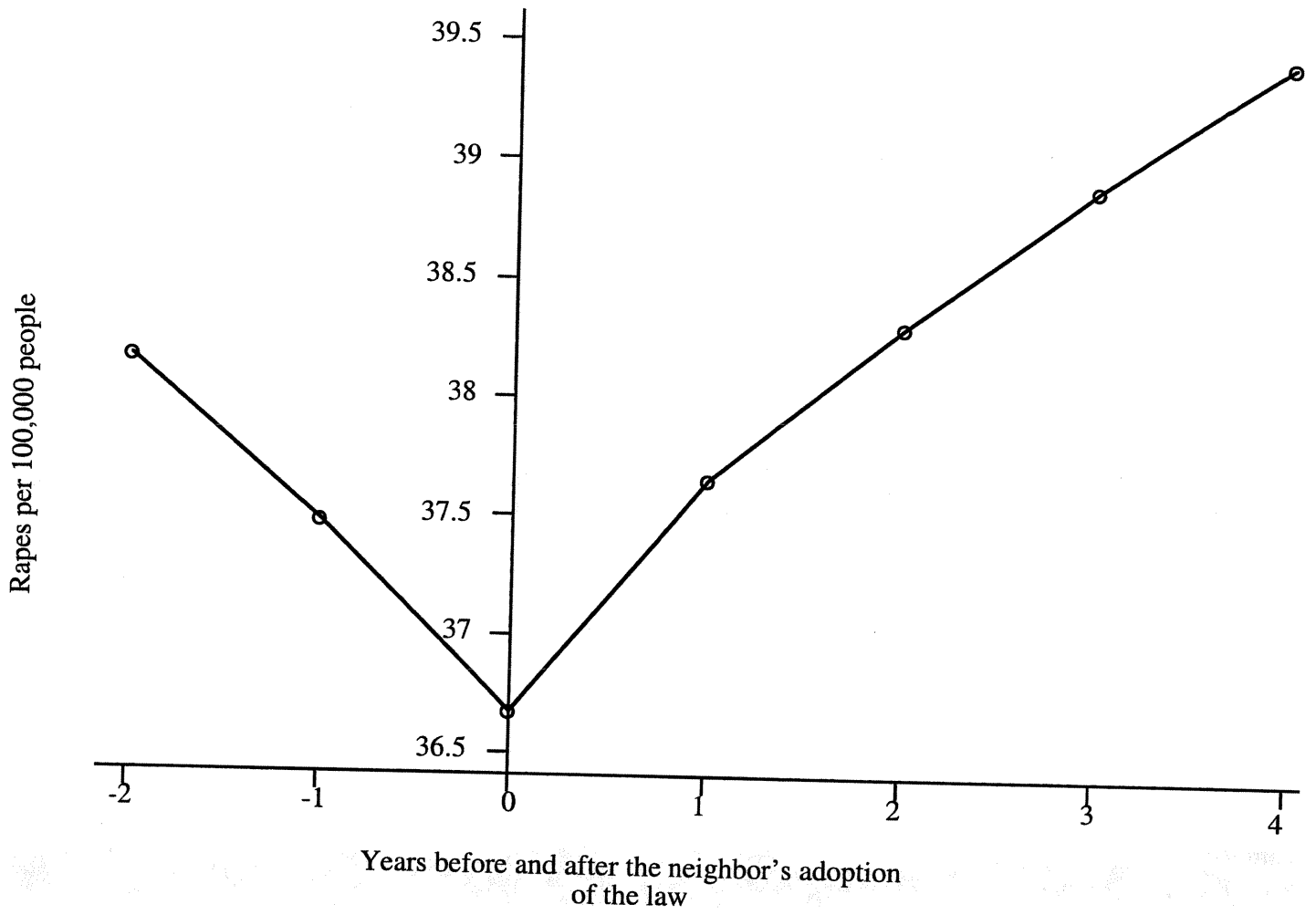


Figure 4.11: Impact on rape rate from a neighbor's adoption of nondiscretionary concealed-handgun law

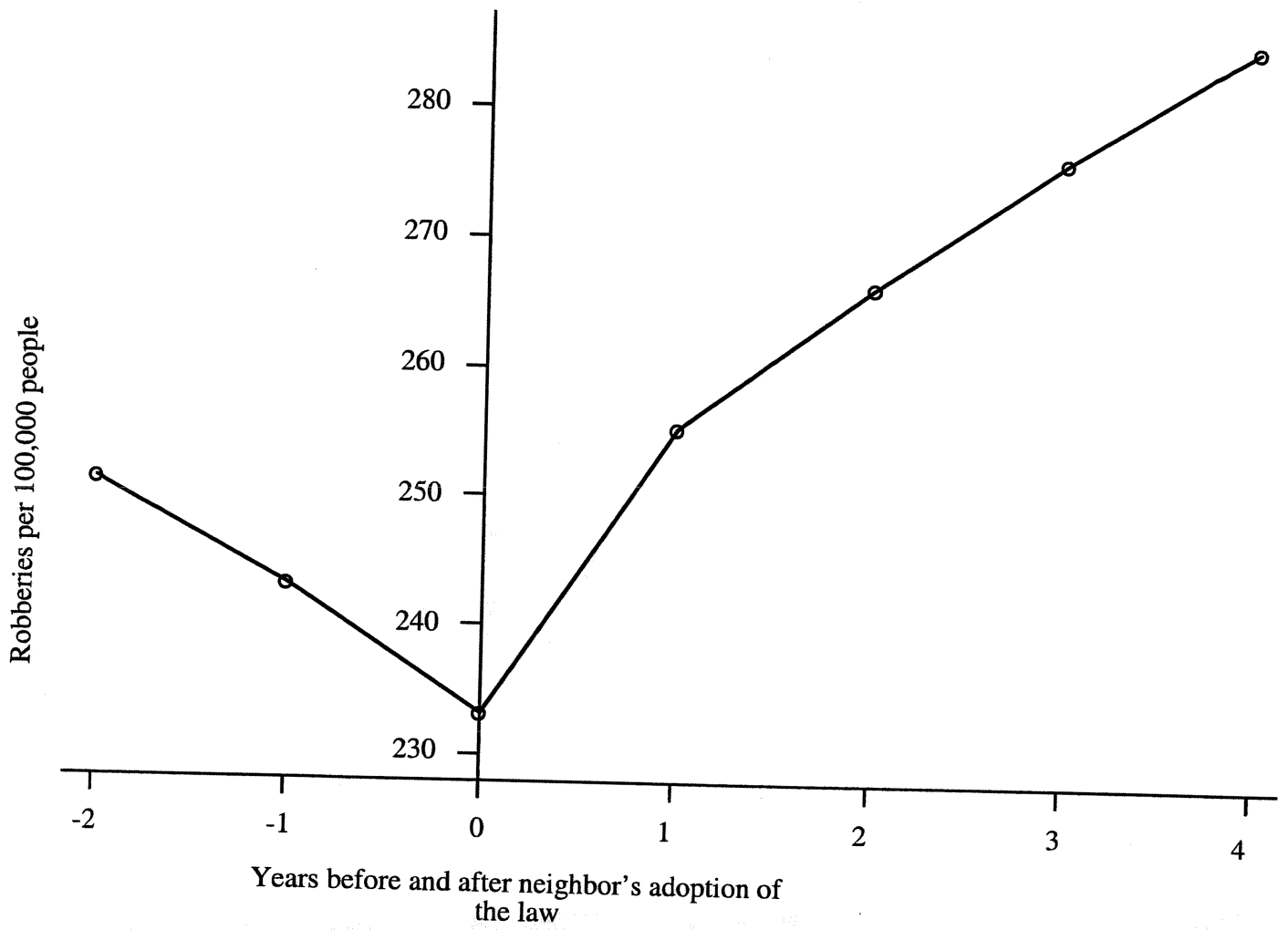


Figure 4.12: Impact on robbery rate from a neighbor's adoption of nondiscretionary concealed-handgun law

Figure 1: Examining the Before-and-After Trends for Murder Using Plassmann and Tideman's Results

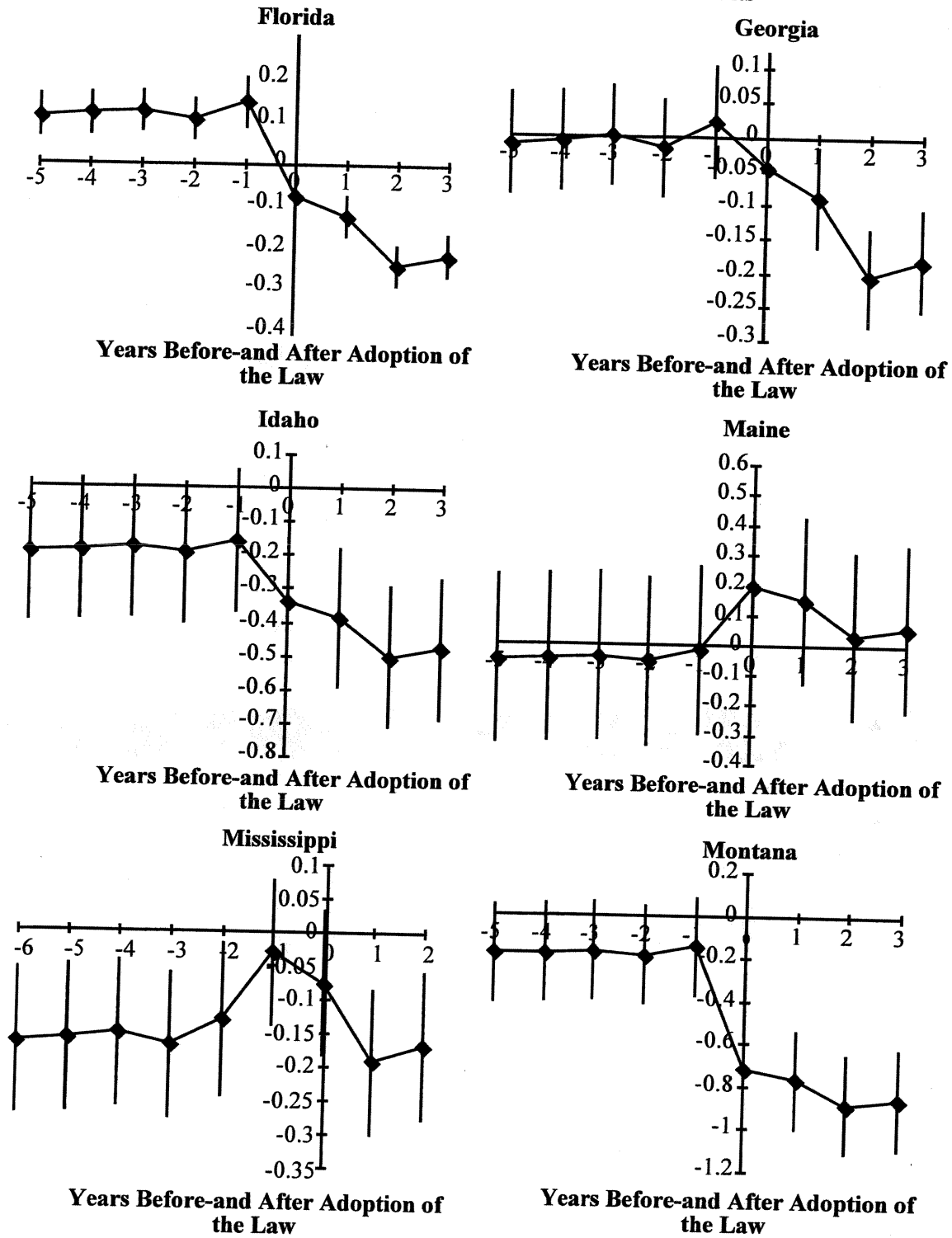
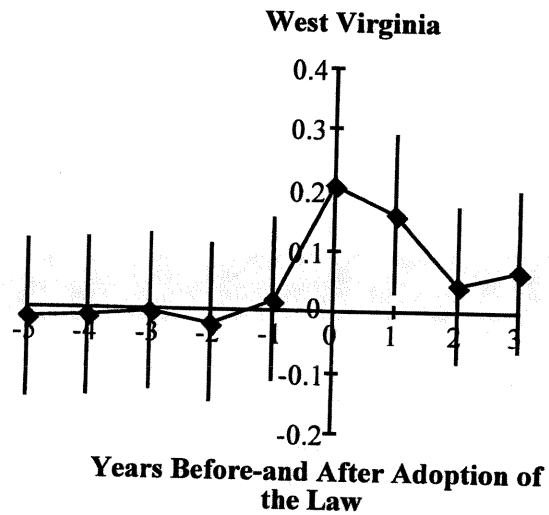
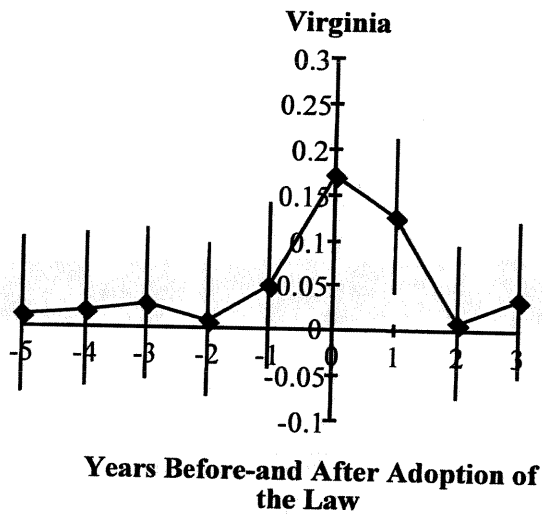
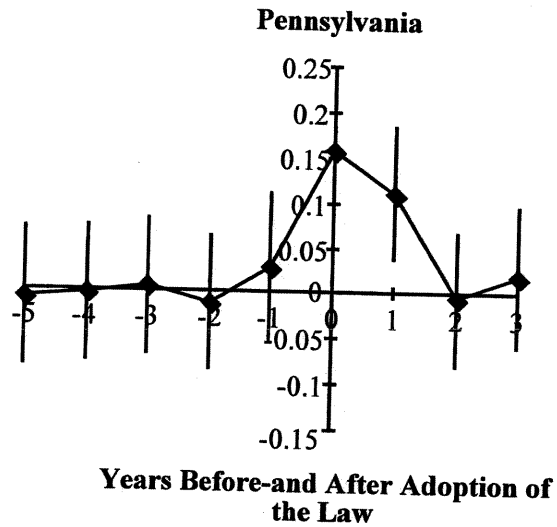
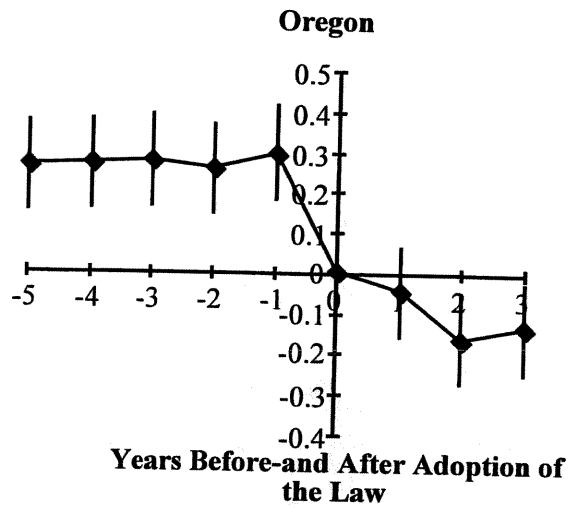
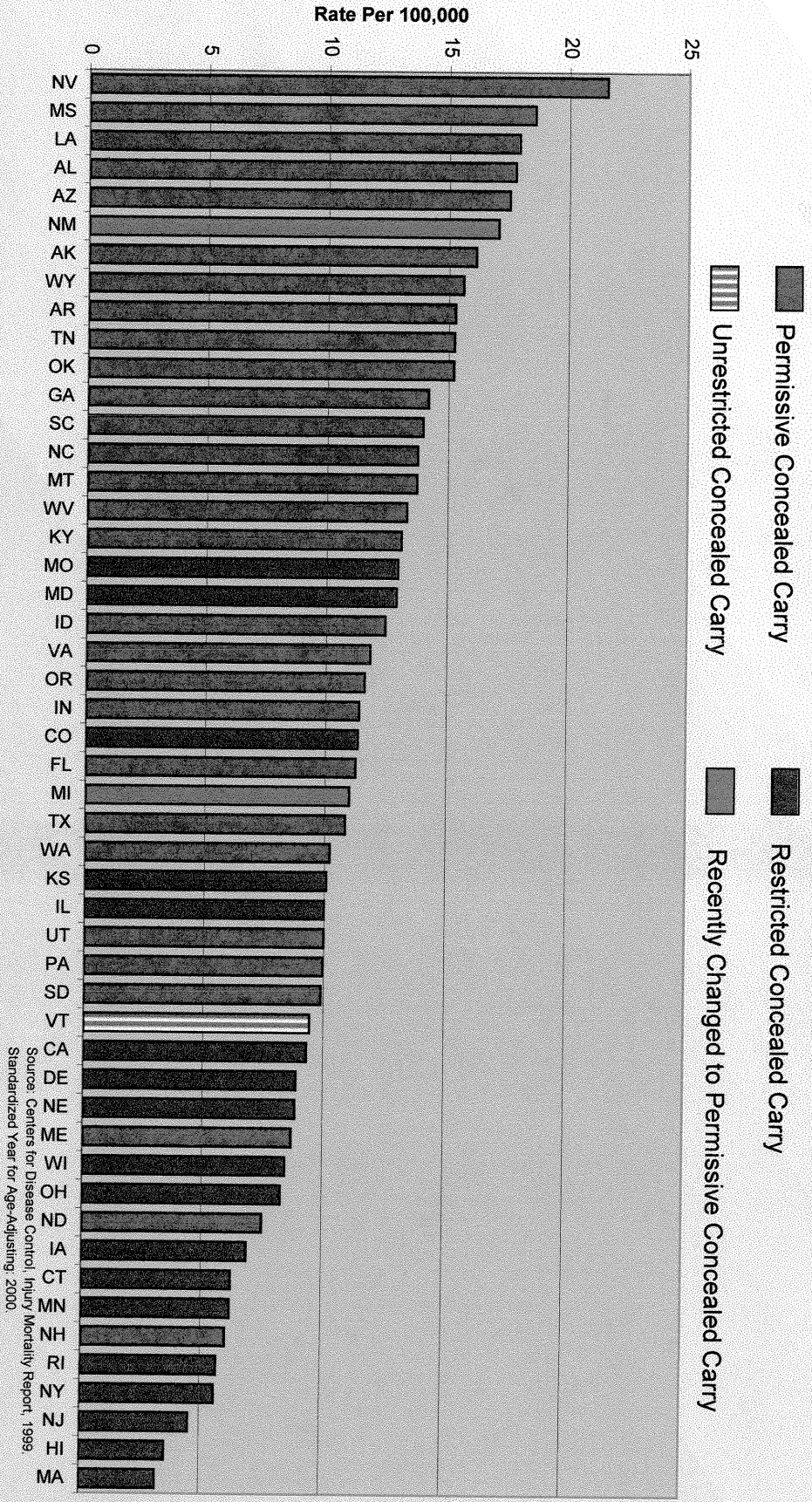


Figure 1 (Continued)



Firearm Death Rates by CCW Status of State - 1999



Source: Centers for Disease Control, Injury Mortality Report, 1999. Standardized Year for Age-Adjusting: 2000.

Carrying Concealed Weapons: Dead Wrong for Wisconsin.

URGENT NOTICE:

WISCONSIN ANTI-VIOLENCE EFFORT STRONGLY OPPOSES LEGALIZING CONCEALED GUNS.

THE PRO-GUN LOBBY AND THE GUN INDUSTRY HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE LEGALIZATION OF CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS WILL MEAN A DECREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME AND AN INCREASE IN PERSONAL SAFETY.

THESE CLAIMS AREN'T BASED ON COMMON SENSE! CREATING A LAW BASED ON FAULTY LOGIC AND UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS IS DANGEROUS AND DEAD WRONG FOR WISCONSIN.

The State Assembly has just passed a bill (AB 675)
LEGALIZING THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED WEAPONS.

Concealed weapons are dead wrong for Wisconsin. Gun violence already takes the lives of more than 400 Wisconsinites every year.

Common sense tells us that more hidden, loaded guns carried by more people will mean more deaths and injuries.

And sending a message to our children that carrying a gun is a good idea is just plain dangerous.

The bill is now in the hands of the State Senate.

Please call your State Senator **TODAY** to let them know how you feel about gun violence. Ask your Senator to vote **AGAINST** legalizing concealed weapons.

To Contact Your State Senator Call the Toll-Free Legislative Hotline

1 (800) 362-9472

This notice prepared by Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort.
Call (414) 351-9283 for more information about ending gun violence.

Hi,

3/9/02

I'm Julie Stenandore From Milwaukee, WI.

I am against carry a concealed weapon, My Little Cousin Rita Martinez was killed in March 2000, by a shot to the back of her little head, That does not mean we have the right to carry a gun ourselves. It was deadly wrong what happened to her, So innocent and young. A woman has the right and the ~~mentally~~ ~~to work~~ ~~to work~~ or who to work ^{with}, we have the smart mind to protect ourselves & our children without carrying a gun. My son is 12 yrs. old he loves to shoot his BB gun by his gramma, which lives in Hartford, ~~WI~~ we keep it there because I'm a woman with sense and protection for my children. Everyone talks of carrying a ~~gun~~ but what about yet a innocent victim that pretends to have a gun just to look like he is protecting himself. "I SAY NO TO CCW"

MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATORS, MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS, GOOD MORNING.

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK TODAY REGARDING THE RA
LEGISLATION. THIS BILL ISN'T ABOUT
PROMOTING VIOLENCE... IT'S ABOUT
EXPECTING SELF DEFENSE.

~~WHY~~ I'M HERE
REPRESENTING MYSELF AND
EVERYONE OF THE FOLKS YOU
KNOW FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS.
THEY ALL MADE A CHOICE...
TO BE INVOLVED WITH GUNS,
OR NOT. THE MAJORITY CHOSE
NOT TO, FOR THEIR OWN REASONS.
HOWEVER THEY WERE ALL FREE
CHOICES AT THE TIME, &

WE'LL LIKE AND ENJOY OUR
DUTY, WE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE
DISPARITY OR INTRUSION OF FORCE,
OVER -

PRA IS SELF PROTECTION. IN
- TO BE STOPPED

THEY WOULD NOT FALL WITH
PASSAGES AND ON LEFT THE
STATION. WHAT IT WILL ALLOW
15. REASON FROM THE FEAR
AND BENEFIT OF ARREST FOR
ENGAGING IN EFFECTIVE SELF
DEFENSE

THE DATA FROM DR LOT'S

STUDY SHOW ONLY A FRACTION
OF THE POPULATION APPLIES AND
OBTAINS CC BENEFITS. THEY ARE
THE ONES WHO ARE FAMILIAR AND
RESPONSIBLE WITH ARMS BUYING.

BTW, THANKS A BUNCH DOGS
MAY FORKS WILL FROM THEMSELVES.
AS WITH ANY CHOICE THE SITUATION IS
NEARSURED

JOEL STUWELL

24006 EASTMAN BLVD RD

BOSCAWEN W1 53805

Thank You ~~JOEL~~ STUWELL

My name is Cassandra Dunahoe and I have been stalked going on 3 years now. I have been living in fear for the past years. I am followed when away from home and watched when I am at home. But there is nothing I can do. For a pretty sad reason. Since this person has never physically touched me, there is nothing that the local police can do. I am afraid to go places alone. I am strongly in favor of the personal protection act. Everyday I wonder when it will go beyond just being followed and watched and to being attacked by this man. However, if I knew I were able to protect myself. I would not be afraid. I would have the best friend of all to protect me. A gun. If someday I am the victim because I was unable to protect myself, that would truly be a terrible day. I can save myself from being hurt, raped or even killed if I only have the chance and the right to.

Thank you

Cassandra Dunahoe

Menomonie, WI

I would like to speak to you from the perspective of someone who has held a concealed carry permit. People who oppose this bill say that it will create a "wild west environment". Nothing could be further from the truth. As you go through your training and after you've received your permit, you are struck with what an incredible responsibility you have. You're very concerned about proper concealment of the weapon so that the public isn't alarmed. You worry that the gun is secure on your person so it doesn't fall out at an embarrassing moment. Everytime you get out of your car to enter a building you must think "Is it okay to carry in there or should I leave it in the car?" You think about scenarios where you might have to use the firearm and review in you mind "is this a real bad guy and am I within my rights to use lethal force. What about innocent bystanders? During your training it is emphasized about the legal aftermath of a justified shooting. How you may be tied up in lawsuits and legal bills for years. In short it is impressed upon you that using your weapon is an absolute last resort and to NOT SCREW UP!

Are these laws effective? I refer you to Miami years ago when foreign tourists were being mugged shortly after getting off the plane. For a while there was significant damage being done to the Florida tourist industry. It was widely reported on the national news that no one understood why this was happening. The NRA took it a step further and interviewed criminals who had been apprehended and their response was interesting. They targeted foreign tourists because that was the only group of people that the criminals knew ~~that~~ were not carrying guns.

Please vote for the people and common sense. Thank you.

John Hosking
Fountain City 54629

I cannot overpower a man. As much as I like to think that I might get a kick or punch at an attacker, I also know my limits. Being able to have the right to carry a gun in my bag or on my person is my choice. I can choose not to carry one but I want to feel safe when I travel, whether I'm hiking, camping, biking or shopping. I will not become a victim.

I am a law-abiding citizen and wish to remain so. I believe in defending myself and my family with whatever means necessary. Too many crimes are being committed on unarmed persons. If an attacker has the slightest idea that I may be carrying a weapon and will use it, with the law condoning this means, that person will suspend his activity. After the fact is not in my vocabulary. I'll be damned if I'll wait until I'm raped, robbed or victimized before I defend myself. A gun-a vote for the Personal Protection Act- is the solution!

Karen Spuhl

Martin Luther King Once Said
{The time is always right to do what is right}

Isn't that right million March moms.
if this law is passed I pray God opens
The eyes of the state assembly each senator and any one for
concealed to carry.
I rebuke the concealed to carry law in JESUS name. I do
not know what it will take
Or why you cannot see the wrong in trying to pass this law.
as it is now no one cares if having a gun is illegal or not we
have shoot outs at the ok corral occasionally. And what the
heck give them all the right to carry a gun who cares. If
your not rich and don't have the money the nra has. then
your not famous. big or small young or old if you live in a
high crime area or not here's a gun kill it's legal now it's
called self defense another one bites the dust . Is that what
you really want ? is this called united we stand alone we
fall ? tell me because I am confused here. it's wrong that
my Rita is dead and others parents lost there children I
know concealed to carry is dead wrong for Wi

GOD BLESS YOU ALL I LOVE YOU
I PRAY YOU DO THE RIGHT THING
VOTE NO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris W. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JOHN G. MATTSOŦ
3570 CYPRESS ST.
EAU CLAIRE, WI. 54701
832-2259

PEOPLE

I won't address you as Senators, Representatives, Ladies & Gentlemen, but PEOPLE, for that's what we are --- PEOPLE. WE THE PEOPLE, --- all inclusive.

My name is John G. Mattson. I am a native resident of this beautiful Chippewa Valley.

We have heard, and will hear, many reasons for supporting the Personal Protection Act, Right to Concealed Carry, AB 675 & SB 357. Many of these things we will hear repeated over and over again. I support most of AB 675 & SB 357, but have my reservations on the governmental registration. I fully support Freedom, and I understand that we must repeat and repeat the virtues of this bill in hopes that deaf ears FINALLY wake up, hear, and understand. Instead of me repeating these reasons in entirety though, I would like to go a little different direction. Let me tell you a story:

A few weeks ago I was out for my morning jog. There was a nip in the air, but the weather had been nice and it looked like Mother Nature was once again going to provide us with a nice spring-like day. I ran along enjoying the peace and beauty of this morning. Then I heard it ----- a child's screams followed by barking, snarling, and growling. I sped around a corner to come upon the scene. Two fairly large dogs had a child on the ground and were tearing at him. A small blue backpack lay to the side. A young boy on his way to school that morning to laugh, play, and learn for the future. What could I do? I HAD no choice! I ran at the closest dog and delivered a kick. He saw it coming, sidestepped the force of the blow, and turned his attack on me, grabbing me by the leg. As I fought with this animal, two homeowners came rushing out of their homes to help, one armed ----- with a rolled up newspaper. The dogs now seeing that they were outnumbered broke off the attack and disappeared into the neighborhood. I stood there, pants torn, leg bloodied, and blood dripping from my fingertips. Through tears streaming across my cheeks I looked down at the torn lifeless body of the child. Why God, why doesn't society and my government trust me to carry a firearm?

This story is fiction ---- or is it? A search through archives of community newspapers nationwide may come up with this exact story. Certainly it will come up with many that are close, similar, and parallel. Just recently there were two such stories that captured the media's attention. One here in Wisconsin cost a young girl her life. You see, as much as we promote the PPA for protection from the predators of our society, we must realize that the threat is not necessarily always from the two-legged kind, but from our 4-legged friends that have gone bad as well. You may have heard of the jogger attacked by a mountain lion in a western state, and of Mothers afraid to leave their children alone in the back yard for fear of bold marauding coyotes. We don't have to worry too much about that in Wisconsin, but a few days ago we still buried a young girl.

We are at war. Did you know that? We are at WAR! President Bush has declared war on terrorism, *just like we are doing here*, and Democrats and Republicans alike have come

together to support this war on FOREIGN terrorism. Let's come together and do the same for DOMESTIC terrorism, and give the law-abiding citizen the tools to legally fight back with.

Our war on foreign terrorism is unlike any war we have ever been in before. Only those having served in Vietnam can probably relate to the quick strike of combat without a defined front line, guerrilla tactics, covert operations, secrecy, stealth, targets of opportunity, the uncertainty of friend or foe, and the unknown as the enemy may walk among us. But even to these veterans this war is different. This war is on OUR soil and in OUR backyards. OUR families are now in harms way. Not since the Civil War when we fought among ourselves has an attack the magnitude of that that occurred on 911 happened on American soil. Not since the Civil War have so many people lost their lives on American soil in one place, and never in a greater number as fast. Our enemy hates us for who we are. They hate us for the Freedoms we still have. They have vowed to kill Americans, and as many as they can without discrimination to age, sex, or color of skin. This was witnessed when the Twin Towers came down, and men, women, and children of all ages and colors lost their lives. Citizens of many other foreign countries also lost their lives that day just because they were in the way of the terrorist mission against the American people. So how do we fight this war, and where is the front line? The front line is where you stand --- where I stand --- and where YOU stand. It might be at the Mall, a School or College Campus, a Church, Hoover Dam, State Capitol, just outside this door, or on your Street. The list is endless, and if you happen to be there when the ugly head of terrorism shows its face in ANY form, you ARE on the front line, and you ARE our first line of defense. I hope the wisdom of the Senate will now provide the people of this great freedom loving country, the right to defend it, our freedom, and the people we love.

Years ago I became a boy scout. First a Cub Scout, then a Boy Scout, and finally an Explorer Scout. I hold an Eagle rank with bronze and silver palms. Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. That is the scout law. Do a good turn daily, the scout slogan. At the young age of a Cub Scout I learned the scout Motto ----- BE PREPARED. BE PREPARED! Out of the mouth of babes -- and I hope we are.

When Florida showed its trust in their law abiding citizens and passed concealed carry laws, an interesting thing happened. Florida did not return to the "Wild West". Heck, the only time Florida was ever "west" was when Columbus came looking for it! Florida has remained a southeastern state and the residents no matter how unskilled at the ballot box have not taken to shooting each other for sport. Crime however went down as unlawful predators learned the price of their trade could be too high if confronted by a legally armed citizen. Suddenly the chance of looking down the business end of a 9mm and hearing the words "go ahead make my day", or seeing a potential rape victim reach into her purse, gave these thugs cause to think. And think they did. They moved on to easier targets in the form of unarmed tourists from other States, identified by the rental cars they drove. Wisconsin is much like those tourists visiting Florida --- an unarmed target in a sea of 44 States that have some sort of Personal Protection Act in place. Of the six States, Wisconsin included, that do not have any provisions for their citizens to protect themselves, an Ohio judge recently ruled unconstitutional the carry ban on Ohio citizens. Without a Personal Protection Act,

Wisconsin is setting itself up as an easy target for any undesirables to ply their trade in reasonable safety. Want to make a few bucks by knocking over a 7-11, a gas station, a bank? How about mugging a little old lady, or that guy just coming away from the ATM? Maybe a kidnapping, or steal a few cars? How about raping a few women while we're at it just to prove our manhood, and slit their throats if they scream? Let's go to Wisconsin, land of opportunity!

I don't consider myself a "gun nut", but I do understand Freedom, the price of Freedom, and the tools of Freedom. I grew up with guns. We played cops and robbers throughout the neighborhood and our parents weren't concerned about us when daylight turned to darkness. We left windows open, doors unlocked, cars unlocked, bikes unchained. On Halloween we trick & treated unchaperoned wherever our legs would take us, and our parents only looked through the bags of candy we brought home to find a choice morsel for themselves. It was a different time, a safer time. As a youngster I was sent to a firearm training school held on the top floor of the long gone Auditorium in down town Eau Claire. Under a strict no nonsense watchful eye we learned, and shot .22 shorts downrange at targets. Boy Scouts continued this training. In the field I hunted with my Uncles who taught me safety, respect, and sportsmanship. My government put all sorts of weapons in my hands, trained and trusted me to use them to defend our freedoms. I've worn Sergeants stripes in Infantry, Engineers, and Military Police. I think I can be trusted with a gun, and I also think the law-abiding firearms trained people of Wisconsin can be trusted. I also think Wisconsinites are just a little bit better quality than Floridians, after all we have beer, brats, cheese, and the Packers!

Support and pass the PPA for the Wisconsin people.

LET'S ROLL!

Thank You.

Mr. Dana B. Auer
2507 W. Burr Oak St.
LaCrosse, Wi 54601
608-788-2698

DNR Customer # 018258459 Patrons License Holder
Current member of The Holmen Rod and Gun Club
Current member of The N.R.A #55064517
Former Regional Director for Ted Nugent World Bow Hunters

I wish to share my view, in regards to the upcoming Wisconsin Senate vote on the issue of our Second Amendment right to carry a licensed handgun.

Statistics are clear that in every state that has authorized the citizens right to legally carry handguns has shown significant drops in the levels of crime in those states. Florida and Texas are prime examples. Which by the way, Texas happens to be the state our great President Bush is from.

As an American citizen, I have the right to protect myself and my family from any act of aggression. Be they acts of terrorism, or threats of danger presented spontaneously in my daily living. It is just wrong, for any Government Official to attempt in any way, to underscore our constitutional rights.

History is filled with examples of regular working class people defending themselves and the rights of others. These people have fought every early American war, farmers, businessmen, and storeowner. Recall the famous Minutemen; did the Federal government assign them all weapons to fight with? No, they were self-armed individuals who understood what it meant to protect themselves and others.

Great Britain and Australia are both prime examples of countries where their Governments dictated Gun laws and basically disarmed their citizens. Once again it is proven statistically that both countries crime rates have increased dramatically.

Please do not misunderstand me when I say that our police departments are not able to do the entire job of protecting us out there. They would be more capable, if you allow good, moral, honest, caring, law abiding, licensed handgun owners to join in the deterrent process. The Government puts limits on the types of weapons our trusted servants can carry. I say arm them with state of the art weapons that most criminals use.

Only a vote of yes for this law to pass in Wisconsin will be acceptable. Do not infringe on the peoples right to bear arms under The Constitution of the United States of America. To many have fought and died to conserve our great nation and the freedoms we hold so dear. Allow us the freedom to choose!

Thank You
Dana B. Auer

Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Inc.

116 Humphrey Circle So., Shawano, Wisconsin 54166 • Telephone (715) 524-8283 • Fax (715) 524-8280

Richard W. Myers
President
Appleton

Steven C. Rinzel
1st Vice President
Brown Deer

Susan Riseling
2nd Vice President
U.W. - Madison

Randy A. Williams
3rd Vice President
Onalaska

Donald L. Thaves
Executive Director
Shawano

Edward A. Rudolph, Jr.
Treasurer
Port Washington



March 7, 2002

Dear Senator:

As President of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, it is my honor and privilege to speak on behalf of the more than 500 police leaders across Wisconsin. WCPA members are YOUR neighborhood experts on policing, not an out-of-town consultant or organization that falsely purports to represent mainstream law enforcement. As a chief of police for over seventeen years, I have rarely seen a time when police leadership is more united than in our opposition to attempts to enable carrying of concealed weapons. It is incumbent on our Wisconsin Senators to prevent this proposed legislation from becoming law.

Elected officials who are in touch with the majority of their constituents will know that the general public is scared to death of passage of concealed weapons legislation. It is unscrupulous to promote this agenda at a time when our country is still reeling from the effects of violence targeted against our society, knowing full well that the job of law enforcement radically changes if anyone on the street can carry a weapon. "Concealed carry" completely changes the relationship police have with the public, and jeopardizes the partnership and trust that years of Community Oriented Policing has sought to build.

The Midwest has the lowest level of the use of deadly force both *by* and *against* law enforcement, according to FBI statistics. Why? Because we hire and train highly professional police officers, who consistently show great restraint in the use of deadly force. The result is fewer occasions of deadly force assaults *against* police. Arming the general public throws this all out the window.

Crime does not decline with an armed public; in fact, criminal acts with weapons increase. Additionally, "exempted" locations as proposed in the Wisconsin versions of this legislation are pragmatically unenforceable. As one elementary school mother posed to me this week, when the armed person chooses to go into a school, do they just leave that gun in the glovebox out in the parking lot? Believe me, we can't keep youth from stealing CD's out of cars, there will be a field day stealing handguns from cars if this passes!

Currently, only law enforcement officers can carrying concealed weapons in Wisconsin, and that is only after stringent hiring processes, extensive background and psychological

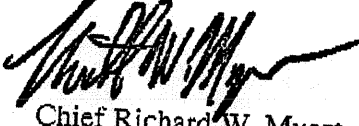
testing, and rigorous training with required demonstration of proficiencies that continues throughout their employment. How could anything less than this be acceptable for the general public to carry deadly force? Yet, the proposed legislation would enable anyone without a serious criminal record to simply ask for his or her permit to carry. Understand this: absence of a criminal record is no assurance of the psychological, emotional, and ethical requirements to make an immediate "shoot-don't shoot" decision. There are sufficient people serving life terms for their first offense to provide proof of this.

Year after year, cities like my own are listed among the top "safest in America" listings that periodical publications love to write about, based upon FBI crime statistics compiled annually. If Wisconsin as a state is one of the top places to live based upon low violent crime rates, WHY are we jeopardizing our quality of life? I don't hear many residents of Wisconsin jealously longing to become a high crime area like those states who have long had concealed carry laws.

At a time when local government has been tasked with an overwhelming burden to help with the nation's homeland security effort, and when state government is asking local government to do with less to help with the state budget problem, now we're being asked to make it simpler for under-trained, untested, and uncertain individuals to take up arms on the streets.

YOUR police chiefs, who have thoughtfully analyzed this issue for several years with police chiefs across the nation, strongly urge you to keep this bad proposal from becoming bad law. The choice to maintain an exceptional quality of life is a clear choice in our minds, and we hope that you will do the right thing in opposing any attempts to enable concealed carry in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Chief Richard W. Myers
W.C.P.A. President

Andrew J. Ravn
1207 Home Park Ave.
Janesville, WI 53545

Testimony for Senate Judiciary Committee

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for scheduling a public hearing on these bills.

The second amendment of the U.S. Constitution states "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to **keep and bear Arms**, shall not be infringed." The State of Wisconsin Constitution confirms this in Article 1, Section 25 by stating "The **people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation, or any other lawful purpose.**" An overwhelming majority approved the Wisconsin amendment in a 1998 referendum. Both of these amendments state that we have the right to keep and BEAR arms. Currently we are not allowed to bear arms for the expressed purpose of self-defense. The Wisconsin amendment specifically addresses the defense and security concerns in relation to our rights. Again this was approved by almost the 3 out of 4 Wisconsinites.

Politicians commonly use the platform of defending the rights of American citizens. In an editorial dated September 24, 2001, a well known Wisconsin Senator stated "We have to be concerned about our security, but we can't do it at the cost of our individual liberties." and "If we lose (constitutional safeguards), then we're losing the core of our democracy. And I, and others, are going to fight against that." I couldn't agree more with these statements (I have attached a copy of these to the back of this testimony). That is what these bills are about. They're about the security and protection of our families against thugs. They're about our individual liberties to bear arms. They're about law-abiding citizens' rights.

The arguments against these bills are starting to fall short. Law enforcement, as a whole, backs these bills. The two largest law enforcement organizations in the nation have endorsed the Personal Protection Act. They understand that law-abiding citizens are not the ones to fear. They know they cannot be everywhere at once, and unfortunately, in

most cases, they arrive after the crime has already been committed. The "wild-west shootout" theory has been disproved by 44 states that currently recognize their citizens' right of self-defense. There has not been the fender-bender turned into a murder investigation. Are Wisconsinites that much more irresponsible than the people of other states? Comments like these are knee-jerk reactions to an emotional issue.

I think that Rep. Jennifer Shilling made the best case for having this bill passed. Rep. Shilling lost her parents and friends in a shooting. There were a total of seven people killed by a madman in a restaurant in Illinois (Illinois also infringes the right to carry). The aggressor has never been caught. The theory behind the Personal Protection Act is to deter this madman from even performing this action. The madman will not know if there are restaurant patrons that have the capability to neutralize him. In the event that this madman still performed this atrocity, the intent would be that a law-abiding citizen would be able to apprehend, or as a last resort, dispatch the aggressor. I firmly believe that had there been a carrier in that restaurant, there would not be seven innocent people dead today. Furthermore, this crazed maniac killer would not be somewhere on the streets of America. I don't think anyone can say that stricter gun laws could have prevented this event. This man has an utter disregard for law and life. A weapons violation is the least of his concerns. Please think about this event the next time you're at a restaurant. What if this happened while you were there? What would you do? Maybe the person sitting next to you will save your life and that of your family.

These bills are not about killing. These bills are about deterring criminals. The carrier has the responsibility to make every attempt to flee the situation. The carrier is to draw his/her weapon only if there is no way to flee. Studies show that in excess of 90 percent of the time, the situation dissolves upon brandishing the weapon. The carrier is to fire **ONLY** in the gravest extreme. At that point, don't you think it would be just for the innocent people to finally be able to say they will no longer be victimized?

Thank you.

Pass SB 357 and AB 675 now!!!

March 9, 2002

Dear Committee:

This letter is written in support of the PPA. Being a Wisconsin citizen and desiring a reduction in crime, I urge you to vote "YES" to this program. I am a sole proprietor of two companies. Many times I work late and travel due to business. 44 other states have proven a self-protection program reduces criminal activities. There are people all over Wisconsin with similar positions and desire for a program, which reduces crime and is in the people's best interest.

Sincerely,

~~Dean Schaal~~

I agree
Ron Sigurdson

Dear Gentlemen:

I am a citizen of Wisconsin and a small business owner. I support the PPA. This program, as like in 44 other states, will reduce criminal activities. Without any doubt, there is not a reason available which should deny this privilege to the law-abiding citizens, like myself. I urge you to pass this program and support the Wisconsin people.

Sincerely,



Nick Lee

3/9/02


March 9, 2002

To: Committee Members

From: Henry and Jeanne Rahr

My wife and I have lived in Wisconsin for our entire lives. Our ancestors, in the 1850s, came to America and settled in Wisconsin. Jeanne is the controller and an officer at her company. I am a self-employed financial advisor. We have seen crime increase around us, as well as experienced the affects personally. The PPA can decrease crime for the people of Wisconsin. With this proven system, as in forty-four other states, my wife and I will feel safer in Wisconsin. As tax paying, registered voting Wisconsin Citizens, we support the PPA and require you to do the same.

Sincerely,


Henry and Jeanne Rahr, Green Bay, WI.

March 7, 2002

Dear Senator George:

I am writing to encourage your support of the Personal Protection Act and Right to Carry Bill that is being proposed for the State of Wisconsin.

Please allow me to propose an educated woman's slant on this issue. I am a 42-year-old woman. For eleven years I taught high school physics at Menomonie High School in Menomonie, Wisconsin. I currently am vice president of an internet company, Purvis Group International. I received my masters degree from the University of Wisconsin River Falls in physics education, and I am the mother of one grown son. I mention all of these things, because I believe there is a perception that people like me are against this legislation. Personally I am very much in favor of it.

Currently those of us who are female, disabled, or elderly have only one choice when we leave our homes, and that is the choice to be a victim. Legally we are not allowed to defend ourselves. Self-preservation is a human right, and that right is denied us within the state of Wisconsin.

Have you ever personally known the fear of having your car break down on a dark Wisconsin road or highway? Perhaps it is a single woman on her way home from work. Perhaps it is a mom with a couple of small children in the car. It could be an older couple coming home from a dinner party, or it could be you. A car stops near you. Your stomach does a flip-flop because you do not know who this is or what their intentions are. Fortunately a majority of the time it is a benevolent good samaritan who only wants to help, but it is possible that it could be a bad person with bad intentions. Rape, murder, kidnapping, robbery, these words are in our vocabulary because these things do happen. There are over 13,000 violent crimes in the state of Wisconsin annually. Ten percent of those are rapes, and eighty percent of the violent crimes occur outside of the home.

The Personal Protection Act as it is written is designed to allow trained, honest, citizens the right to carry a concealed weapon. This is a very carefully written bill. Individuals must have certified training before they can apply for a permit. These are law abiding citizens who are willing to fill out forms, take training, and pay a fee for the right to defend themselves and their families. Legislation like this is already established in 33 other states. In every state where this legislation has passed the crime rate has dropped. There is a halo effect that occurs. Less than 2% of the population typically applies for a right to carry permit, but 100% of the population is protected by the question mark that arises in a criminal's mind. Does this potential victim have a gun or not? You see criminals also have an in born desire for self-preservation. Not once has there been an incident of a permit holder shooting a police officer. There are millions of people in other states who already have this right without it being a problem. We in Wisconsin currently do not have this right.

My son manages an auto parts warehouse. Nightly he transports from \$5000 to \$10,000 to the bank on his way home from work. He is a strong young man in his twenties, and yet he is vulnerable. It is totally possible for someone to follow his movements and rob him or worse. Because of this risk he has applied for and received a permit to carry a concealed weapon. My son is fortunate enough to live right next door in the state of Michigan, where it is legal to protect yourself. If he lived in Wisconsin, he would not be allowed to do so. A mother always wants her children close, but I also want mine safe. I am grateful he is somewhere open minded enough to allow him as a trained honest citizen a fighting chance against the bad guys.

This Personal Protection Act will reduce the number of violent crimes within the state. This law will save lives. Please have the courage to look at the facts, and not just look at the emotional knee jerk reaction of people who do not know anything about guns or this legislation. You are elected to protect our freedoms and our lives. The bad people will always have guns. It is foolish and naive to believe that taking guns out of the hands of the honest citizens will have any effect on deterring the people who choose to break the law.

My personal story is that I married a man who used to be a police officer in the Chicago area. He put some bad people in jail. Some of them are now free and hold a very strong grudge against him. We have bullet holes in our home. Legally I am not allowed to defend myself outside of my home. I must choose to either hide within my home living in fear or boldly go on with my life. I choose to live. I have great respect for the law. I am then faced with the choice of defend myself or breaking the law. Please do not make me make that choice. By passing this legislation, you are defending the good citizens of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is the greatest place to live in the world. We love it here. Please allow us to defend ourselves. Please pass the Personal Protection Act. Perhaps some night it may be you or I or someone we love whose life is spared the trauma of a violent crime. A good citizen crosses a dark parking lot with a hand in a pocket. The bad guy who is watching doesn't know for sure if this person is armed or not, so he chooses not to attack. Let's put fear and doubt into the lives of the criminals for a change. If only one life is saved by this legislation it is worth it.

I wish you God's Speed and Good Judgement. Thanks for your time.

Mary Purvis, 715-665-2431

N8340 County Rd. O, Knapp, Wisconsin 54749

Carrying Concealed Weapons

Statement to Senate Judiciary Committee

Eagles Club, Chippewa Falls

March 9, 2002

I am here today to testify in strong opposition to AB675 and its companion bill SB357. The notion that legalizing the carrying of concealed weapons is an effective way to increase personal safety and decrease violent crime is not only counter-intuitive to most people, it's dead wrong.

There is, in fact, no credible research indicating that a law allowing people to carry concealed guns makes them or their communities safer. I realize that to support the "more guns, less crime" view, supporters of shall issue CCW laws cite the "research" of economist John Lott. Lott has claimed that CCW laws are an effective method of reducing crime. However, after carefully reviewing Lott's study, eminent scholars have found serious flaws in his methods and, therefore, in the validity of his findings. For example, in a *Valparaiso University Law Review* article, the author (Albert Alschuler) points out that the deterrent effect of concealed carry should be far greater for stranger homicides than for intra-family homicides, because with or without a concealed carry law, gun possession in the home is legal. Yet Lott's study showed that the proportion of stranger killings increases and the proportion of intra-family killings decreases following the passage of a concealed carry law.

In another example, authors of an article published in *The Journal of Legal Studies* challenge Lott's conclusion that there is great social benefit to shall issue CCW laws. In a reanalysis of Lott's data, these authors found that if just one state, Florida, is removed from the sample, there is no longer any detectable impact on the rates of murder and rape. These are the two crimes that Lott used to account for 80% of the alleged social benefit. After their careful analysis, these authors concluded that "inference based on the Lott and Mustard model is inappropriate, and their results cannot be used responsibly to formulate public policy."

Even Gary Kleck, a researcher often aligned with the pro-gun lobby, found, "...there is no evidence that carrying a concealed weapon has a deterrent effect." He further stated it is "more likely [that] the declines in crime, coinciding with relaxation of carry laws, were largely attributable to other factors not controlled for in the Lott and Mustard analysis."

Clearly, these laws are not effective in decreasing crime, but worse yet, they may actually lead to increases, particularly of firearm deaths. In an article appearing in *Journal of Criminal*

Law and Criminology, researchers McDowall, Loftin and Wiersema summarized, "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." Many other researchers have come to the same conclusion.

For example, a new study done by Harvard found that in the five states with the highest levels of gun ownership, children aged 5-14 were three times more likely to die from firearm homicide, seven times more likely to die from firearm suicide and 16 times more likely to die from unintentional firearm injury than children in the five lowest gun-ownership states. The five states with the highest level of gun ownership (Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and West Virginia) all have permissive CCW laws, while the five states with the lowest level of gun ownership (Hawaii, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Delaware) all restrict the carrying of concealed weapons.

Further, the conclusions of all of these researchers are supported by an analysis of FBI and CDC data. Specifically, the data show that generally the states that restrict or prohibit CCW have lower firearm death rates than those that allow it. Wisconsin, for example, has a firearm death rate of 8.4 per 100,000 (1999). Wisconsin currently has a lower firearm death rate than all but two of the shall-issue CCW states. In fact, eleven of the twelve states with the highest firearm death rates are shall-issue CCW states, whereas ten of the twelve states with the lowest firearm death rates restrict the carrying of concealed weapons.

Truly concealed carry laws do not have a benefit at the societal level, but what about the personal level? Will these guns increase personal safety? Researchers and other experts across the country have unequivocally said, "no!" For example, in the *American Journal of Public Health*, H. Morgenstern wrote, "the net impact of owning a handgun or having a family member own a handgun is to increase appreciably—not decrease—the risk of violent death."

Even though research shows that handguns do not have a net positive effect on safety, according to the National Sports Shooting Foundation, 63% of handgun owners possess their handgun primarily for personal protection. Yet even the gun experts conclude this may not be a wise decision. In the January 2002 issue of *Guns and Ammo*, Jeff Cooper, also known as the Gunner's Guru, writes, "...we see people rushing out to buy personal defense weapons, which may or may not be a good idea, since the possession of a weapon is of no value without the skill to use it well." Cooper's opinion is mirrored by another gun expert Massad Ayoob, a regular columnist for the premier gun industry magazine, *Shooting Industry*. Ayoob expresses his concerns by saying, "The uninitiated tend to make two kinds of mistakes with firearms: they

either use guns when they shouldn't, or do not use them properly in the rare circumstances when they should."

But are these gun experts simply underestimating the abilities of the average gun owner? According to handgun defense expert Duane Thomas "Most cops and civilian gun carriers are lousy handgun shots. The level of ineptitude of many people who carry guns on a daily basis is nothing short of appalling." But what if you are the exception? Then would a concealed handgun make good sense?

Chris Bird, another gun expert, suggests that it wouldn't. He writes, "A handgun is the hardest firearm to shoot accurately, and, even when you hit what you are shooting at, your target doesn't vaporize in a red mist like on television." He also says, "Like many things in life, a handgun is a compromise. It is the least-effective firearm for self defense."

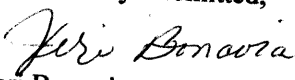
To summarize all of these experts, handguns are rarely, if ever, the best method of self-defense. Clearly, hidden handguns are not the be-all, end-all of personal protection. And, as I pointed out earlier, concealed weapons laws do not decrease violent crime.

Given the quantity, and, more importantly, the quality of the evidence suggesting that lax CCW laws are terrible public policy, I was truly disturbed to see Senator Zien quoted in a recent issue of *Gun Week* as saying, "We are pushing concealed carry to beat heck." He goes on to say, "If it doesn't pass, we want to make it a top election issue this fall." This second statement is extremely surprising since the majority of the people of Wisconsin are opposed and have been constantly opposed to CCW.

In statewide polling, less than 20% of the population is in favor of CCW. And not even a third of gun owners are in favor of this law. These numbers are consistent with polls conducted nationwide, in other states, and even in your own districts.

All of these people in Wisconsin aren't wrong. They know, and, of course, you know, creating a law based on nothing more than anecdotes and faulty logic is wrong. And it's dangerous. We ask you to join us in opposition to AB675 and SB357.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jeri Bonavia
Executive Director, WAVE

March 9, 2002

Dear Senator George,

My name is Bob Huybers and I'm from Green Bay. I am an armed forces Veteran. As a law-abiding citizen I would like the freedom that the founding fathers of the United States and Wisconsin had in mind when they wrote the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution:

"A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

And the Wisconsin Constitution Article I, Section 25:

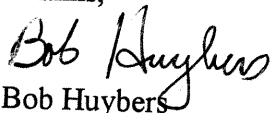
"The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose."

If the Personal Protection Act is passed, Wisconsin will join the 33 other states where law-abiding citizens can help prevent violent crimes as they are happening. Wisconsin will be a safer place to live when criminals don't know who may be capable of protecting innocent lives and property. The great men and women of our police force can only do so much. All too often they are called after crimes are committed or when they are in progress. They arrive after the criminals have left the scene and have to chase after them. Armed, trained, licensed and law-abiding citizens who are on the scene can often stop or prevent these crimes from ever being committed.

Please give us back our rights that we have had for so many years by voting for the Personal Protection Act.

Wisconsin will be safer for our children.

Thanks,



Bob Huybers
885 Southern Cross Rd
Green Bay, WI 54303
920-434-8198

1310 Sheri Court #4
Tomah, WI 54660-1722
608-374-2238
justdave@tomah.com
8 March 2002

Dear Senator:

State Senator Zien and Representative Gunderson have introduced legislation to allow licensed and trained Wisconsin citizens to carry concealed weapons. I have been in many of the states that have similar laws, and can tell you that they work. What I cannot understand is why our legislators here in Wisconsin are so stubborn when it comes to treating our citizens the same way other states treat theirs.

This issue is important to me, and I urge you to vote for the concealed carry bill.

As a law-abiding citizen of this state, I feel that it is an insult to me to be told by certain legislators that I cannot be trusted to carry a weapon for self defense.

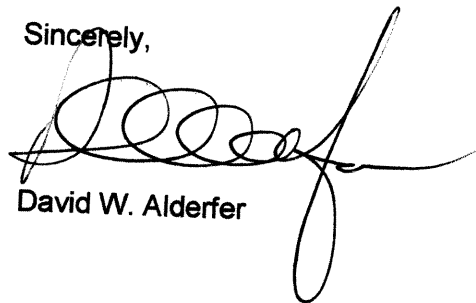
The criminals are already carrying guns; why can't I carry one to defend myself against them? If I lived in most other states, it would be legal for me to do so. As hard as our police officers try, they can't always arrive at the scene of a crime in time to stop it.

From the research I have found on this issue and the experiences of the 44 states that allow legal concealed carry prove that such systems work.

What I have not been able to find is proof for the arguments made against concealed carry. None of the states have turned into the Wild West. There haven't been shootings at every fender-bender. None of the "doom and gloom" hyperbole is true.

This is an important issue to me as well as to thousands of your other constituents. Rest assured that we all will be watching your vote carefully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Alderfer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David W. Alderfer

March 9, 2002

Dear Wisconsin Lawmaker,

My name is Avelin S. Yost. I am 28 years of age. I am 5'6" in height and weigh 116 pounds. I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stout in Business Administration. I graduated Magna Cum Laude and I am a member of my professional honorary society, Sigma Beta Delta. My address is 803 21st St. N., Menomonie, WI 54751. I have had several jobs in industry. My husband and I now operate a small enterprise and I hold a position with Northwest Airlines. I am making this statement intending to support current proposed legislation restoring the right of law-abiding citizens of the State of Wisconsin to carry weapons on their persons with which to defend themselves.

December 23, 1989 was a day I will never forget. On my way home from a school activity at night I was attacked by a stranger. He followed me for a few blocks, I heard the footsteps behind me, I was too frightened to look back. I knew there was something wrong and soon his footsteps got faster and he grabbed my hands from behind, pulled my hands behind my back and gave a push behind my knees, I fell down. I struggled with him and I was able to push him off and run, just able to reach the front of my home and he grabbed me again. This time he flashed a knife in front of my face and hissed that he was going to cut my eyes out because I had looked at him. He thrust the knife to stab my left eye. I was able to move my left hand in front of my eye, the knife sliced my fingers, my ring finger was cut to the bone. Everything went very fast at that point. Failing to stab my eye with the first attempt he drove the knife from above my head again and because I was able to bend rearward to avoid my face being stabbed I took a stab wound into my upper left chest, the knife lodged in my upper ribs. He had difficulty withdrawing the knife. He had to struggle with me and twist the knife to dislodge it. Then he forced me, in spite of my violent struggle for life, onto the pavement. The next stab thrust came powerfully, forcing the blade between my ribs into my left lung from the back. I knew the knife had gone between the ribs and I felt a "bubbly" feeling starting in my chest. I will always remember with horror the raspy sound of the knife being withdrawn from my back. My breath was shortened and my lung was filling with blood. He thought that he had hit my heart and he hissed that this last blow would be fatal. He walked calmly away ... I was prone in the snow on the street in front of my home. I knew if I stayed on the ground I would die. I forced myself up and walked eleven steps to get to my door, rang the bell and kick the door in a state of semiconsciousness. My father opened the door to find me bleeding, I fell on him...

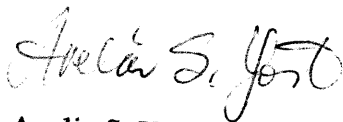
I had screamed on the street when I was being attacked and fighting for my life. There were people across the street standing and watching, too frightened to intervene. I had defended myself as best I could without a weapon. No one had a weapon except the attacker.

My wounds were very nearly fatal. I had a very extensive recovery and rehabilitation period. My wounds precluded normal exercise activities for several years.

I would not have believed that this could happen to me, surely not again. It did. May 28, 1993 I was attacked by the same man in broad daylight. He threatened that this time he will finish his job. I had seen him come up behind me. I knew he was the attacker. He used the same method of pulling my hands behind. This time I threw my head back forcefully and smashed his nose. He covered his bleeding nose with his hands in surprise, releasing my arms. I ran for my life. I was able to get to a nearby store where 4 young men responded to my cry for help. They blocked the attacker on the street and pushed him back as he tried to come after me. I was able to escape and return home safely but knowing I will never be safe again!

I have moved to a new location. I am aware of my surroundings at all times, I know how quickly things can go wrong. I am proud to be an American citizen and grateful for our rights and freedoms. I now own a proper handgun and am competent in its use. In the past I had the will and the opportunity to defend myself, but did not have the means. Now I am armed. I will not be a victim again.

Please encourage your legislators to pass the carry bill.



Avelin S. Yost