



ROBERT BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Hearing Testimony
Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Wednesday, January 5, 2021
10:00 A.M.
Wisconsin State Capitol, North Hearing Room

Chairman Spiros and members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, thank you for affording me with the opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 495, relating to the possession of a firearm in a vehicle on school grounds by an individual with a license to carry a concealed weapon.

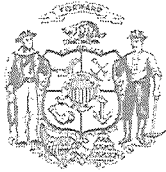
Assembly Bill 495, quite simply, ensures that individuals who possess a concealed carry permit do not accidentally violate state law when picking up or dropping off a child in their school parking lot.

Under current law, individuals are generally prohibited from possessing a firearm on the grounds of a school. Several states, including our Midwest neighbors, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, have already enacted legislation allowing parents with concealed carry licenses to transport their children to and from school.

Unlike 2015 Assembly Bill 846, which I authored with then-Senator Mary Lazich, this legislation is limited to a school's parking lot. 2015 Assembly Bill 846 would have allowed individuals to carry a concealed weapon on school grounds or school-owned property. Under that proposal, school districts still had the right to prohibit concealed carry within the confines of a building.

Wisconsinites should not receive a felony conviction for simply exercising a right enshrined in the United States Constitution. This common-sense legislation allows individuals to exercise their Second Amendment rights while simultaneously protect themselves and others. The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed must be respected and taken seriously.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have.



ANDRÉ JACQUE

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*Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
State Senator André Jacque
January 5, 2022*

Chairman Spiros and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of Assembly Bill 495, the Family Protection Act.

Simply put, Assembly Bill 495 will ensure that parents who hold a concealed carry permit won't accidentally violate the law when picking up or dropping off their child in their school parking lot. It is important to allow parents to protect themselves and their families as they go about their day

Under current Wisconsin law, a person is generally prohibited from possessing a firearm on the grounds of a school. Several states, including our Midwest neighbors Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, have already enacted legislation allowing parents with concealed carry licenses to be able to transport their children to and from school.

Thank you for your consideration of AB 495.



Wisconsin Gun Owners Inc. Testimony of AB 495

To the distinguished Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, thank you for giving me this chance to be heard on AB 495, which would allow those who are appropriately licensed or approved to concealed carry in the state of Wisconsin to have their firearm in their vehicle while on school grounds.

First, I would like to state that CCW permit holders make up the most law-abiding demographic in America, according to a Crime Prevention Research Center survey circa 2016.

Recognizing the inherent right of teachers and parents to be armed, in their vehicles, on school grounds makes common sense, as Americans are increasingly embracing their Second Amendment rights. More and more people are getting concealed carry licenses and training with firearms.

There are naturally more armed parents and teachers with this uptick in gun ownership and concealed carrying. These folks could even be the deciding factor in whether a mass shooter targets a particular school or not. A criminal, knowing that they could meet armed resistance, even if it is only in the parking lot, that thought could be enough of a deterrent to change their minds as to whether they will attack a certain location at all.

Years and years of gun control have proven that more restrictions on carrying a firearm do not yield more safety. But, the statistics bear out that states with Constitutional Carry (which is permitless) have a measurable drop in crime. Such as in West Virginia, where the number of violent crimes has been steadily decreasing since the adoption of Constitutional or Vermont-style carry.

If loosening gun restrictions consistently results in decreased crime and increased gun control consistently results in increased crime, then the answer to this problem has presented itself. We have our answer on which is the best course of action to secure the peace and safety of our state and its people, and that is freedom—trusting that free individuals will do the right thing. This is why WGO overwhelmingly supports AB495.

Thank You,

Thomas Leager
Executive Director

Lisa Bingeheimer
4000 W Lincoln Ave
West Milwaukee, WI 53215

My name is Lisa Bingenheimer from Milwaukee. I am self employed, a Mom, a wife, I volunteer with the NRA and several other groups. I am also the person behind the Wisconsin 2A Team, a group of grassroots volunteers working to make sure Pro-Second Amendment candidates get the support they need and that legislation like AB495 gets passed.

Federal background checks for firearm sales reached an all-time high of 21 million in 2020. As you may have heard, the 2021 National Firearm Survey conducted by Harvard University revealed 3.5 million new gun owners between January 2019 and April of 2021 were women. United States Conceal Carry Association and other training groups offer women only classes. We have seen groups like A Girl with a Gun and Women on Target memberships grow exponentially. There are women owned businesses in SE Wisconsin like Bear Arms and MK Protection Strategies that specialize in education and continued training for firearm owning women.

If you have ever picked up a child from school, you have seen the majority of the people in the pickup line are women, Moms, Grandmas, Aunts and Nannys. The statistics above prove women are taking their protection and the protection of their families seriously by learning how to independently defend themselves. As I stated previously, I am self-employed, a Mom, a wife and my husband says my work supports my volunteer habits, I can truly attest to how busy our lives can be going from one event to another. I begin the day with my car loaded for the day's activities.

I am fortunate enough to feel safe enough in my travels to not feel the need to keep a firearm in my car at all times. There are some areas of the state in which some women do not. These women should not be branded felons if they chose not to remove the one piece of protection that allows them to keep themselves and their families safe. Moving AB495 forward would allow those women that peace of mind.

Thank you so much for your time today and for your consideration moving in moving AB495 forward.