



PRESS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association Urge Changes to Concealed Carry Weapons Legislation

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association (WCPA), representing 686 Wisconsin law enforcement leaders across this State, are extremely concerned with the fast tracked legislative proposals regarding concealed carry legislation. “The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police are not opposed to Concealed Carry legislation but want to ensure safe guards are in place. The Wisconsin Chiefs have an obligation to protect our officers and the citizens of this State. Our number one concern is ensuring that those who choose to carry concealed weapons do so safely,” says Chief Greg Leck of the Stoughton Police Department and President of the WCPA.

Oregon Police Chief Doug Pettit and WCPA Legislative Chair stated, “The WCPA agrees with recent comments by Governor Walker indicating that he is supportive of a permitting and training requirement for concealed carry.” The WCPA also wants to ensure that those who are not legally permitted to carry a concealed weapon face stiff penalties. “Our concerns have always been the same. We want to keep weapons out of the hands of criminals. Simply having a wide open carry laws does not address the other side of the issue which is preventing people from using weapons to commit crimes.” The Chiefs recommend expanding penalties on convicted felons to include restrictions on possession of ammunition and being in facilities that sell firearms or have shooting ranges.

Chief Leck added that stiffening restrictions on where people can possess firearms also needs to be addressed in any approved legislation. The WCPA recommends keeping weapons away from our schools, government buildings, and other non-profit facilities. Another concern is keeping alcohol and weapons apart. The Chiefs recommend stiff penalties for intoxicated use of a firearm. “It is just common sense to keep weapons separate from alcohol and drug usage,” said Leck.

The WCPA is also advocating training provisions for carrying a concealed weapon that are similar to what is required nationwide for retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed. Being able to use a weapon properly is vital according to Chief Pettit. “To require stricter permitting and training criteria for

law enforcement officers who have been carrying weapons for their entire careers than you would for the general public is just wrong.” said Chief Pettit.

A recent statewide poll of Wisconsin residents showed that over 90% of the residents polled demand a Concealed Carry Law includes a background check and adequate training. The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association want to ensure if concealed carry passes that Wisconsin has a law that everyone can comfortably agree with and is good public policy.

Chief Leck and Chief Pettit are available for further comment on the proposal that would permit persons in Wisconsin to carrying concealed weapons.

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