



Minnesota H 188 / S 650: Public Carry with No Permit and No Training / Guns in Schools / Guns on Campus

- ❑ **Bottom Line:** The gun lobby is pushing dangerous and poorly-drafted legislation in Minnesota that would let people carry loaded handguns in public without a permit or safety training, and may even force K-12 schools and colleges to allow people to carry loaded handguns on their premises. Dismantling the permit requirement would lower the bar for who may carry handguns in public in Minnesota, and would let dangerous individuals legally carry loaded handguns in crowded town centers and on city streets. Forcing schools to allow guns would overrule the judgment of teachers and school safety experts, who oppose allowing guns into schools. Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject permitless carry in Minnesota.
- ❑ **The vast majority of states require that a person get a permit before carrying a concealed gun in public.**
 - In the vast majority of US states, including Minnesota, a person must have a permit to carry a concealed, loaded handgun in public. These laws ensure that core public safety standards are preserved when people carry guns in public places.
 - Permitless carry bills seek to repeal these important public safety laws, and allow people to carry concealed guns in public without a permit or safety training.
 - **Eighty-eight percent** of Americans think a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public.¹
- ❑ **H 188 and S 650 would dramatically lower the bar for carrying a handgun in public in Minnesota—to include dangerous people, teenagers, and those with no firearms safety training.**
 - **Dangerous People:** Under current Minnesota law, law enforcement authorities must deny handgun permits to applicants who present a danger to themselves or to the public.² But H 188 and S 650 would allow these dangerous people to legally carry loaded handguns throughout the state.
 - **No firearms safety training:** Most states require a handgun safety course before a person can get a permit and carry a concealed handgun. Under current Minnesota law, applicants for handgun carry licenses must complete a safety training course that includes live-fire training.³ But under permitless carry, people who have never handled a gun before would be able to legally carry loaded handguns on our city streets.
 - **Teenagers:** Under current Minnesota law, teenagers are not eligible for pistol carry licenses.⁴ But H 188 and S 650 would allow people under 21 to legally carry loaded handguns throughout the state.
- ❑ **H 188 and S 650 may force Minnesota elementary, middle, and high schools to allow civilians to carry handguns on their premises.** Under current law, generally only trained law enforcement and security officers can carry guns in schools. But H 188 and S 650 could change the law and force schools to allow civilians to carry loaded handguns on school property.
 - **Teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns in schools.**
 - The American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation's two largest teachers' organizations oppose allowing guns in schools.⁵



- The federal government's chief legal, law enforcement, public health, education, and emergency management agencies all agree that allowing civilians to carry guns in schools is not a sound security practice.⁶
- **Schools are already extremely safe.**
 - On average, only 1 percent of all homicides of school-age children occur on school grounds, on the way to or from school, or during a school sponsored event.⁷
 - There is approximately one homicide of a school-age youth at school per 1.8 million enrolled students.⁸
 - "Active shooter" incidents, like those at Sandy Hook School and Columbine High School, are extremely rare.⁹
- **The focus on arming school employees ignores the risks and consequences of bringing more guns onto school grounds.**
 - Everytown has tracked 113 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school campuses since 2013. Of those shootings, over 1 in 10 were **unintentional shootings**, and more than 1 in 6 incidents began as **a verbal altercation that escalated** because of the presence of a gun. Introducing guns on school campuses increases the potential for such tragedies.¹⁰
 - Schools that have allowed employees to carry guns have seen difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage. Some liability insurance providers have declined coverage to these schools while others have increased annual premiums, stretching already tight budgets.¹¹
- **The gun lobby uses fear of "active shooter" situations to justify these policies, but arming civilians is not an effective way to stop an active shooter.**
 - Even police officers, with all their training and frequent exposure to high-risk and life-threatening events, do not always shoot accurately in a crisis encounter. Research casts significant doubt on the idea that civilians could shoot as well as trained police officers in an active shooter situation.¹²
- **H 188 and S 650 may force Minnesota colleges and universities to allow civilians to carry handguns on their premises.** H 188 and S 650 are poorly drafted and could force colleges and universities to allow civilians to carry loaded handguns on campus.
- **Forcing guns onto campuses would burden Minnesota colleges with large new costs for security and insurance.**
 - **Idaho's guns on campus law is costing universities millions.** In 2014, Idaho passed legislation that forced colleges to allow people with "enhanced" permits to carry guns on campus. As a result, five state schools had to request more than \$3.7 million from the state to increase security in the first year alone.¹³
 - **The cost of guns on campus in Arizona was estimated at over \$13 million.** During a 2012 legislative fight, the Board of Regents estimated that allowing guns on campus would cost \$13.3 million in one-time expenses and \$3.1 million in annual costs.¹⁴ The bill was vetoed.
 - **Guns on campus legislation creates new insurance costs for colleges.** In 2011, the Houston Community College Board of Trustees estimated its insurance costs alone could rise as much as \$900,000 per year if a guns on campus bill passed.¹⁵



- **Campus stakeholders oppose guns on campus.**
 - **Campus Police Chiefs:** In a 2008 survey of university police chiefs, 89 percent of the chiefs agreed that the most effective and important way to deal with gun use on campus is to prevent the use of guns at all.¹⁶
 - **College Administrators and Faculty:** In surveys conducted in 2013 and 2012, 95% of college presidents and 94% of college faculty indicated they oppose concealed carry on campus.¹⁷
 - **College Students:** In a 2012 study of students, 79 percent said that they would not feel safe if concealed guns were allowed onto their campuses.¹⁸
- **Colleges and universities, which have traditionally prohibited guns on campus, are relatively safe from gun violence—but campus life is rife with other risk factors that make the presence of guns potentially dangerous.**
 - **Campuses are relatively safe:** Among all violent crime against college students from 1995 through 2002, 93 percent of incidents took place off campus.¹⁹ With over 21 million students attending colleges and universities in 2013,²⁰ only eight gun homicides occurred on campuses.²¹
 - **Heavy Alcohol and Drug Use:** A Columbia University study found that half of U.S. college students binge drink or abuse illegal or prescription drugs, while nearly a quarter of college students suffer from substance abuse and dependence.²² Students who carried guns on campus “were more likely than students who did not do so to report drinking heavily and more frequently, driving while under the influence of alcohol, and vandalizing property.”²³ Alcohol leads to impaired judgment about whether to shoot a gun, as well as impaired aim when firing.²⁴
 - **Mental health issues and suicide:** Nearly 1 out of 10 undergraduates reported “seriously considering attempting suicide” and 1.4% had attempted suicide in the past 12 months.²⁵ At one large public university, 14% of undergraduates and 11% of graduate students screened positive for depression.²⁶

¹ Strategies 360 Survey, March 2015.

² Minn. Stat. § 624.714, Subd. 6(a)(3).

³ Minn. Stat. § 624.714, Subd. 2a.

⁴ Minn. Stat. § 624.714, Subd. 2(b)(2).

⁵ “AFT, NEA: Arming Teachers Won’t Keep Schools Safe, Dec. 20, 2012, available at: <http://www.nea.org/home/53943.htm>.

⁶ U.S. Department of Education, et.al, “Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, 2012, available at: http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_k-12_Guide_508.pdf.

⁷ Digest of education statistics, 2015. Table 228.10: School-associated violent deaths of all persons, homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18 at school, and total homicides and suicides of youth ages 5-18, by type of violent death: 1993-93 to 2012-13. National Center for Education Statistics; http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_228.10.asp. Accessed November 28, 2016.

⁸ Zhang, A., Musu-Gillette, L., and Oudekerk, B.A. (2016). Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2015 (NCES 2016-079/NCJ 249758). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC., at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2016/2016079.pdf>. Digest of education statistics, 2015. National Center for Education Statistics; date unknown. http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_105.20.asp?current=yes. Accessed November 28, 2016. In the school year 2012-13, 31 homicides and 6 suicides of school age youth took place at school. In this academic year, 55 million students were enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.

⁹ Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, “School Shootings in America



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- ¹⁰ Everytown for Gun Safety. Analysis of the Everytown School Shooting Index, Guns in Public Places. <http://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>. Published 2016. Accessed November 14, 2016.
- ¹¹ NY Times, Seven Yaccino, "Schools Seeking to Arm Employees Hit Hurdle on Insurance", July 7, 2013, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/08/us/schools-seeking-to-arm-employees-hit-hurdle-on-insurance.html>.
- ¹² White MD. Hitting the target (or not): Comparing characteristics of fatal, injurious, and noninjurious police shootings. *Police quarterly*. 2006;9(3):303-330; Nieuwenhuys A, Oudejans Ràur. Effects of anxiety on handgun shooting behavior of police officers: A pilot study. *Anxiety, Stress, & Coping*. 2010;23(2):225-233.
- ¹³ Campus Safety Magazine, "Concealed Carry Law Costs Idaho Colleges \$3.7M", February 5, 2015, available at: http://www.campussafetymagazine.com/article/conceal_carry_law_costs_idaho_colleges_3.7m/Metal_Detection.
- ¹⁴ Arizona Republic, Anne Ryman, "Gun bill costly, universities say," March 1, 2012, available at: http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/USCP/PNI/Valley%20&%20State/2012-03-01-pni0301met-guns-on-campus-costPNIbrd_ST_U.htm.
- ¹⁵ Texas Tribune, Christopher Smith Gonzalez, "Guns on Campus Could Cost Colleges," April 27, 2011, available at: <http://www.texastribune.org/2011/04/27/guns-on-campus-could-cost-colleges/>.
- ¹⁶ Thompson, Amy, et al. "Reducing firearm-related violence on college campuses—Police chiefs' perceptions and practices." *Journal of American College Health* 58.3 (2009): 247-254.
- ¹⁷ Price, James H., et al. "University Presidents' Perceptions and Practice Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns on College Campuses." *Journal of American College Health* 62.7 (2014): 461-469; Thompson, Amy, et al. "Faculty perceptions and practices regarding carrying concealed handguns on university campuses." *Journal of community health* 38.2 (2013): 366-373.
- ¹⁸ Thompson, Amy, et al. "Student perceptions and practices regarding carrying concealed handguns on university campuses." *Journal of American college health* 61.5 (2013): 243-253.
- ¹⁹ Carr, Joetta L. "Campus violence white paper." *Journal of American College Health* 55.5 (2007): 304-319, available at: <http://curry.virginia.edu/uploads/resourceLibrary/white-paper.pdf>
- ²⁰ Estimated figure. National Center for Education Statistics, "Projections of Education Statistics to 2021," Table 20, January 2013, available at http://nces.ed.gov/programs/projections/projections2021/tables/table_20.asp
- ²¹ Everytown for Gun Safety, *Analysis of School Shootings*, December 2015, available at: <http://every.tw/2dhsOzq>.
- ²² Casa, N. C. "Wasting the best and the brightest: Substance abuse at America's colleges and universities." *New York (US): Columbia University-National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse* (2007).
- ²³ Miller, Matthew, David Hemenway, and Henry Wechsler. "Guns and gun threats at college." *Journal of American College Health* 51.2 (2002): 57-65.
- ²⁴ Wintemute, G. J. (2011). Association between firearm ownership, firearm-related risk and risk reduction behaviours and alcohol-related risk behaviours. *Injury Prevention*, 17(6), 422-427. doi:10.1136/ip.2010.031443
- ²⁵ ACHA. National College Health Assessment: Spring 2015 Reference Group Executive Summary. American College Health Association;2015.
- ²⁶ Kawa I, Carter JD, Joyce PR, et al. Gender differences in bipolar disorder: age of onset, course, comorbidity, and symptom presentation. *Bipolar disorders*. 2005;7(2):119-125; Eisenberg D, Gollust SE, Golberstein E, Hefner JL. Prevalence and correlates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality among university students. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. 2007;77(4):534-542.