

Safe Places Alliance

October 13, 2015

Via email SenRJones@senate.michigan.gov and hand-delivery

Dear Senator Jones and Judiciary Committee members,

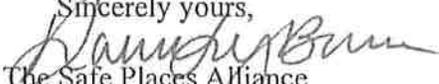
We are a West Michigan coalition of gun owners, parents, grandparents, business owners, educators, and local leaders. We oppose SB 442, which would allow concealed carry in schools, day care centers, churches, hospitals, stadiums, entertainment venues, colleges, and bars. Please place this correspondence in the public record on this bill.

Concealed weapons do not belong in schools, day care centers, churches, hospitals, stadiums, entertainment venues, colleges, or bars. In the vast majority of precincts in this state, the response time of police officers is not a problem. More importantly, and with all due respect to Michigan CPL holders, even in the handful of places where police response might be slower, it is unrealistic to believe that an individual with a concealed carry permit can sweep in and save the day with the skill of trained law enforcement in a chaotic, rapidly unfolding situation. There is no historical evidence of such a scenario. It is a fantasy best left to crime novels and movies.

One lesson of last month's tragic Umpqua Community College murders is that more concealed weapons does not mean fewer deaths. Umpqua College is not a gun-free zone. The civilians who were armed on campus that day decided not to use their guns to try to stop the shooter because they knew they could be mistaken as "bad guys" if they entered the fray. Their wise assessment reflects how multiple active shooters in a turbulent scenario makes the work of first responders more difficult because it forces them to try to determine who is who amidst chaos.

Multiple shooters can also mean more injuries and deaths. Numerous recent and reliable studies show that more concealed guns do not save lives or lower crime rates, but instead cause an increase in homicides. (See for example Ayers and Donohue, 2002, attached).

We hope you will make the reasoned decision that concealed weapons do not belong in schools, hospitals, churches, daycare centers, stadiums, entertainment halls, college dorms, college classrooms, or bars, and decline to report SB 442 favorably.

Sincerely yours,
 Chair
The Safe Places Alliance

James S. Brady • Kathleen Ley Bruinsma • Marlin Feyen • Hal Froot • Hon. George Heartwell
Ruth Kelly • Lupe Ramos Montigny • Charlie Ransford
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cc Governor Rick Snyder
Senator David Hildenbrand