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### **Wisconsin Council on Children and Families Opposes Concealed Carry Gun Legislation**

Madison, WI---The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) today denounced claims by the supporters of concealed carry gun legislation that the change will increase personal protection.

“No study with any integrity proves that these policies in other states have reduced violent crime,” said William Perloff, M.D., PhD and WCCF board member.

The most widely-cited study that concludes concealed carry laws reduce violent crimes has been discredited for the research methodology used by its author, economist John Lott. Other researchers have shown that Lott’s study incorrectly used dates for implementation of concealed carry laws in the states studied and also limited the study to certain years which, when factored in, eliminate the statistical significance of his findings.

“We are appalled that the concealed carry legislation would open up many, many facilities to concealed weapons,” said Charity Eleson, WCCF associate director. “Day care centers, churches, shopping malls, social service agencies, health clinics and hospitals—just to name a few—would all be required to allow people who are licensed to conceal and carry to tote their loaded weapons into these facilities where children and youth are at play, at work or receiving care.”

The bill would also allow “reciprocity” for individuals who are licensed to conceal and carry guns in other states, waiving them from Wisconsin’s licensure standards.

“Most problematic is that we are relying on the integrity of the licensure process done in other states,” said Eleson. “While we believe that the authors of the bill want to ensure that only law-abiding citizens are allowed to conceal and carry guns, it will be difficult—if not impossible—to ensure that the licensure bodies in the 44 other states adhere to the standards proposed by the authors of this legislation.”

Polling results reported in “Aiming for Safety”, a report on gun safety issues published earlier this year by WCCF, show little support among Wisconsin citizens for concealed carry legislation.

“We know that 68 percent of Wisconsin citizens polled opposed concealed carry legislation,” said Martha Cranley, WCCF Kids Count Coordinator and editor of the report. “Of those that oppose it, almost half are gun owners themselves.”

“Legislators should look at the research, consider the circumstances under which innocent children could be harmed by such a policy and listen to the citizens of this state who overwhelmingly oppose concealed carry laws,” said Perloff. “This is an extreme measure that is not warranted, will do nothing to protect the safety of individuals, and put children and youth in our communities in harm’s way.”

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, with 1,000 members statewide, joins over 20 other groups in opposing concealed carry legislation in the state.