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### **New Survey: Wisconsinites Still Strongly Oppose Concealed Carry**

In spite of a massive lobbying and public relations effort by the National Rifle Association and other gun-oriented special interest groups, a majority of state residents remain **opposed** to legislation allowing most people to carry concealed weapons in Wisconsin. According to a new survey this week sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF), **twice as many Wisconsin adults (62%) oppose** allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons as favor it (31%). Even among gun owners, a majority is opposed to allowing concealed weapons.

“People in Wisconsin, including gun owners, understand the simple fact that having more guns toted around would NOT make them safer,” said WCCF Executive Director Anne Arnesen. “On the contrary, it would increase the likelihood of a gun being fired somewhere in Wisconsin at any given moment. The safety of children is at stake.”

The results of this new survey are consistent with findings from similar surveys in recent years. In spite of strong public opposition, legislation ending Wisconsin’s 130-year-old ban on concealed weapons is now under consideration by the State Senate. The bill would also have to be passed by the Assembly and signed by Gov. Doyle in order to become law.

“Lawmakers who voted for concealed carry are clearly failing to represent the desires of their constituents,” Arnesen said. “Crime rates have gone down over the past several years without the benefit of an armed populace. To suggest that there is an urgent need to change a law that has worked effectively for 130 years is both pointless and dangerous.”

Other survey findings include:

- 45% of Wisconsinites are satisfied with current Wisconsin laws dealing with handguns; only 28% are dissatisfied. Another quarter had no opinion.
- More than two-thirds (68%) oppose allowing people from other states to carry concealed weapons in Wisconsin on the basis of a permit from their own state. This strong opposition held across all demographic groups, including gun owners.

(more)

- Among gun owners, 50.2% oppose concealed carry, while only 44.0% favor it.

“For over 100 years, Wisconsinites have been safer because we don’t let people carry hidden loaded weapons around in public,” Arnesen said. “This poll clearly demonstrates that residents don’t want to see that change.”

Telephone interviews were conducted on October 20 and 21 with 600 randomly selected adult residents of Wisconsin. The margin of error is four percentage points.

“Owning guns and keeping them stored safely at home is one thing. Packing one under your coat at the Piggly Wiggly is quite another,” Arnesen said.

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*WCCF is a private, non-profit organization that focuses on research, policy development and advocacy on multiple issues affecting children, youth and families in Wisconsin.*