

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I would like to address Section 26 of SB 978, which would severely infringe our Second Amendment rights by prohibiting us from bearing arms in many public places.

Concealed carry license holders are law abiding citizens. In fact, a report by the Crime Prevention Research Center titled "Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across The United States 2016" states that concealed carry permit holders are convicted of felonies and misdemeanors at less than a sixth of the rate of police officers. (See [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN\\_ID2814691\\_code16317.pdf?abstractid=2814691&mirid=1](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN_ID2814691_code16317.pdf?abstractid=2814691&mirid=1) and specifically page 15.)

This proposed legislation exempts law enforcement officers and honorably retired law enforcement officers, and yet concealed carry license owners are no less law abiding than these people.

Concealed carry license holders will obey this law because we are law abiding. Evil people, on the other hand, will not be deterred by this law. In fact, this law will turn public places into soft targets that will attract these evil people to do their evil deeds.

The well-known economist John R. Lott has made a strong case in his book, *More Guns Less Crime*, that concealed carry actually deters crime.

The problem of violence in our society is not a gun problem or a knife problem; it's a problem of evil. I honestly don't know how to get to the root of the problem of evil through legislation, but I am convinced that this piece of legislation will not deter evil. If anything, it will open up opportunities for evil people to carry out their evil actions.

While I am opposed to this entire anti-gun legislation, Section 26 is especially troubling to me.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Bell