

The Concealed Carry Newsletter for Over 23,000 South Carolinians!

Grass Roots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181

Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Internet: <http://www.scfirearms.org>



Fall, 1999

Vol.3 No.3

YOU SAID YOU WANTED IT! NOW MAKE IT HAPPEN! **LET'S GET RID OF CWP RESTRICTIONS!**

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE." The *truth* about Concealed Weapon Permit's (CWP) is that they *benefit* everyone, even those who do not have a CWP. This has been proven in Dr. John Lott's book, MORE GUNS, LESS CRIME. Dr. Lott's research shows *more CWP holders mean fewer murders, fewer rapes, and fewer aggravated assaults*. Dr. Lott's research shows that for every CWP issued there is a *decline* in violent crime, and cost savings to the public of thousands of dollars. Dr. Lott's research is the most extensive and thorough research ever done on how CWP's effect crime. Dr. Lott's research covers EVERY COUNTY IN THE US over a multi year period. Dr. Lott's research puts the *lie* to other "researchers" who have come out against CWP's. HCI can not honestly refute Dr. Lott's research. The mass media will not give it the light of day. If you do not have the book, get it and read it. It is the best weapon we have to combat our enemies - it is the truth.

WE MUST REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS ON CWP's - PEOPLE'S LIVES DEPEND ON IT! Our CWP law is filled with restrictions on where a CWP holder can legally carry. But, criminals do not obey these laws, just as they do not obey the laws against murder, rape, and aggravated assault. Criminals know where CWP holders can not carry. Criminals feel safer and seek to work their mischief where honest citizens are disarmed. These CWP restrictions are a *danger* to the well being of the public, not protection. Laws should be based upon reality, not irrational hysteria or fear of firearms. *The reality is that fewer CWP restrictions will mean more lives saved, fewer women raped, and fewer people beaten and injured*. How can any reasonable, caring, and compassionate person be against fewer victims?

NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE TO PROTECT INNOCENT LIVES! Every day we delay, more innocent people suffer injury, pain, economic hurt and even death at the hands of criminals! Many people have told GRSC their representative or senator promised them they would support CWP reform. Now is the time to ask them to keep their promises. We can get change if we work to get it.

GRASS ROOTS SOUTH CAROLINA HAS WRITTEN PROPOSED REFORMS TO OUR CWP LAWS. They are published in this newsletter. We want *your* review and comment. Read and study the reforms we've proposed. Ask questions. What do *you* like? What don't *you* like? Tell us. *You* be the judge of our proposals.

CHANGE WON'T COME EASY! There will be strong opposition to changing the CWP laws. Some will oppose CWP reform because they are anti-gun and do not care about the truth of how CWP's save lives. These anti-gun groups will give us the opportunity to expose them for the hypocrites they are. They claim to be interested in saving lives, yet the reliable research shows *CWP's save lives*. We may also see opposition from pro-gun groups representing a broader base of gun owners not interested in CWP reform. Some pro-gun groups may oppose us because we are not affiliated with their national organization. We refuse to trade the interests of South Carolina CWP holders for *any* national organization's agenda. Some pro-gun groups may oppose CWP reform just because they did not propose the changes. It's called the "Not invented here" syndrome. It's an elitist attitude. We want *all* pro-gun forces to work with us to get CWP reform legislation passed. That will greatly multiply our chances for success and make life easier for all of us. But, all we *really* need is the support and backing of the hardworking grassroots people of South Carolina. That means *YOU!*

IF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA WANT CWP REFORM LEGISLATION PASSED, AND WILL WORK FOR IT, IT WILL PASS. Tell us what *you* think. Do *you* want these changes? Will *you* work for them? If not, we'll drop it right here.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT! Watch for GRSC's Special Legislative Alert Mailing scheduled for late fall. When the legislature re-convenes in January, CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR AND TELL THEM TO CO-SPONSOR THE CHANGES TO THE CWP LAWS PROPOSED BY GRASS ROOTS SOUTH CAROLINA! **TELL THEM YOU BELONG TO GRSC AND SUPPORT THE PROPOSED CHANGES. TELL THEM "CWP'S SAVE LIVES" AND YOU WANT CHANGE, NOW! DO THAT, AND WE'LL GET THESE CHANGES THROUGH!**

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Modeled after similar organizations in other states, Grass Roots South Carolina is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens who have chosen to obtain concealed weapons permits. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

GRSC, Inc. is registered as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina and employs lobbyists to promote or oppose legislation concerning CWP holders and the RKBA in South Carolina.

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Note: The Grass Roots South Carolina Newsletter is distributed quarterly to the membership of GRSC. Publication is in January, April, July, and October with articles for publication due by the 15th of the preceding month.

Regarding Reciprocity...

As of September 29, 1999: South Carolina recognizes permits from AR, WY, UT, and TN. South Carolina CWP holders may legally carry in AK, AR, TN, ID, IN, KY, MI, WY, OK, UT, and VT.

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SCCWPIA - Instructors' Association:

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GRSC in the Media:

- *Legally-Licensed Weapons Owners Trying to Open Doors to Businesses*

Fact:

As of September 29, 1999 there are 23,295 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina! (19,352 men and 3,943 women) All of who have been deemed law-abiding citizens by their county, state, and the FBI!

Congratulations!

Visit GRSC's Internet Site:

<http://www.scfirearms.org>

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A Message From Your GRSC President, Ed Kelleher

Dear friends and fellow citizens of South Carolina who are *exercising* their right to keep and bear arms, I salute you! I'm proud to know you and be a part of GRSC.

We have a lot going on. We're working on getting GRSC into every gun show in the state. We've already started in the Columbia area, but we need to branch out. We're talking with two large, statewide banks, to get them to take their signs down. We're working on the "Merchant" program. New cards and new procedures to contact merchants and get them to NOT post against CWP, etc. We're also working on "Flyer2" to contact new CWP holders and re-contact old ones. The more people we have with us, the better chance we'll have of getting improvements made to the CWP laws. To that end, one big thing we've done is register GRSC as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina so we can lobby our lawmakers. Let me detail some of these activities for you.

Now is the time to take the initiative and press for changes to our current CWP law. GRSC has written proposed legislation (see details inside this newsletter) that will:

- Eliminate most "prohibited carry" zones.
- Increase the number of states that honor SC CWP's.
- Remove unconstitutional residency requirements.
- Require clear marking of posted businesses.

Do you want to be able to carry when you go to a restaurant? Or along the hiking trails at a state park? Or in the dark parking lot

when you go to night school? Or to pick up your child from day care? Or when you visit relatives out of state? Of course you do! You are no less at risk at these times than others. Well, if we all patiently work together we can get these necessary changes to our laws passed and then we all *will* be able to carry where and when we want to.

To help this work, GRSC is starting our second membership drive. Although GRSC is already 2 or 3 times larger than any other South Carolina pro-gun organization, we must be bigger! It's not for the dues, \$15 barely covers printing and postage costs. We need active people! We're *Grass Roots!* How many blades of grass do you think it *takes* to make a lawn? The more people we have working with us, the better our odds of getting improvements to our CWP laws.

Another big step we've taken is to register GRSC as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina. According to SC law, a person must register as a lobbyist *if* that person speaks for an organization and tries to influence legislators or agency actions. There's no "magic" or "secret" to lobbying. You don't have to be "friends" with politicians; they just have to *know* you represent *votes* and *contributions*. You don't need a big dollar budget either. Just figure out what you want, why you should have it, and go start talking to legislators. Don't let anybody fool you - it's the people politicians listen too, the lobbyists just get their attention.

What's our philosophy in dealing with the legislature? "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." We know you catch more flies with honey than vinegar. We will *always* be civil and polite. But, when *I* do wrong,

I want to be told why in a straightforward, uncondemning manner. If *I* don't listen, *I* expect to pay the consequences. Well, we'll treat politicians and bureaucrats in the same manner. We'll be fair. But, if they persist in what amounts to stealing our precious liberty, we're not going to beat around the bush. U.S. Sen. Everett Dirksen said it best, "When I feel the heat, I see the light". We want our legislators to see the light *without* having to use the heat. But, if it takes heat, so be it. That is when GRSC members become so vitally important - in bringing a good warm heat to their legislators to help them see the light.

Our goal is not to make "friends" in the legislature. Our goal is to get lawmakers to pass laws that are fair and just and promote the liberty and well being of *all* citizens in South Carolina. We will gain the legislature's respect by fairly representing the interests of GRSC members, honestly speaking our minds and always keeping our word. If necessary, we plan on *you* showing politicians it will cost them votes and contributions if they oppose pro-CWP laws in South Carolina. By the same token, we'll work hard and effectively to help those lawmakers who support the right of citizens in this state to bear arms where and when they choose. Again, that is when GRSC members become so vitally important; *you* are the ones who vote and make contributions.

We're not planning on "throwing money" at this thing either. Our lobbyists are, and will be, *unpaid*, volunteer members of GRSC with no expense accounts. We're not going to try to "wine and dine" or "buy" politician's favor and "access" to them. That stinks, and it hasn't worked in thirty years.

GRSC's Leadership Report

(continued from previous page)

We *are* going to spread the truth about good, pro-gun laws, and how passing CWP reforms is good for South Carolina. We are going to be calling on and writing lawmakers regularly. They are going to **know** GRSC and what we stand for. One activist wants to mail copies of John Lott's book, More Guns, Less Crime to every legislator. We're looking hard at doing that. If you haven't read the book yourself, I suggest you do.

GRSC was formed to make South Carolina better for CWP holders. Some laws and regulations need to change. The most efficient and effective way to get these changes is through a *combination* of outspoken grass roots activist voters and lobbying our legislators. I called the South Carolina Ethics Commission and learned that the **two** registered NRA lobbyists live in Virginia. Folks, we need good, committed, pro-gun South Carolina people, who carry concealed weapons on a daily basis, at the state house and other state agencies telling them what we need and working for the people, *not* some part time people from out of state.

The power to change CWP laws comes from **you**, the people, the "Grassroots." The power does NOT belong to politicians or lobbyists – unless we give it to them or we give up! To be successful, each and every one of you **must** help by calling your legislators in the SC House and Senate and letting them know you belong to GRSC and you want them to pay attention to what GRSC representatives say. We're not just some "Columbia" or "Sumter" or "Greenville" group. We're Grass Roots of South Carolina and we're sticking to our guns!

Sincerely, Edward J. Kelleher, Jr.



To all my Patriot friends By Ervin Wagner, Sr.

In the deep darkness of Saturday night, while browsing on the Internet, a great threatening image reared its head. A serious, influential gun-control advocate was found buried deep in our midst. Verily, it is as close as Orangeburg.

One of our neighbors defies our history, our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, our State Constitution, our militia heroes (Marion, Pickens, Sumter), our Founding Fathers, our military veterans, our war dead, our 22,000 concealed carry citizens, our unalienable rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Please carefully read the Statement of the AMA and note its threat to our liberties and rights.

I wanted to abbreviate Sr. Smoak's biography but decided to send all of it.

Randolph D. Smoak, Jr., MD
Orangeburg Surgical Associates
1175 Cook Road Northeast #320
Orangeburg, SC 29118

This is a business office. PLEASE do not call, the patients would not appreciate the problems that could happen.

Please make contact by snail mail ONLY.

I urge everyone to write a letter in a persuasive manner and educate the doctor.

I'll stay out of his surgery suite, and he should stay out of my shooting range, car, and home. He is free to defend himself with a scalpel, but he has no right to get between my gun and my liberties. We are not crooks and resent being slandered.

Ervin Wagner, Sr.
Whitmire, SC

(begin text of AMA statement)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, June 14, 1999
STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE
TO:
Randolph D. Smoak, Jr., MD
Chair, AMA Board of Trustees

AMA URGES HOUSE TO
RETAIN SENATE GUN
PROVISIONS

"As the House of Representatives considers the juvenile crime bill that is before them, the AMA strongly urges them to retain the gun control measures that have already been passed by the Senate.

"Handguns are one of the primary causes of injuries and deaths in this country - both intentional and unintentional. The Senate provisions on waiting periods, background checks and safety locks would help reduce the number of injuries and fatalities associated with guns.

"The AMA has consistently advocated for strong gun control provisions. The recent outcry by Americans' to reduce the gun violence that plagues our society increases the urgency for action. We support passage of the juvenile crime bill as a sign from Congress that the outcry is being heard."

For more information, contact:
Brenda L. Craine 202/789-7447 or
LaNae E. Davis 312/464-4418
(end)

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

Columbia Mall Anti-CWP Signs

I am a resident of Columbia (Irmo) South Carolina. I have stopped shopping at Columbia Mall for two reasons. The first reason is that I feel it is an unsafe place to be. Right or wrong, I feel that Columbia Mall is the hangout of dangerous young people. This would not be such a big problem for me, were it not for the second reason why I have stopped shopping at Columbia Mall. The second reason I stopped shopping there is the fact that they have signs up advising the public that it is illegal to bring weapons onto the property. That means I can't park or drive my car onto the property, because, as is legal in the state of South Carolina, I keep a loaded gun in my glovebox. Also, I have a permit to carry a concealed handgun on my person. In order to gain this permit, I had to pay for and take a daylong course at Midlands Technical College on the subject. I had to prove that I knew how to shoot a gun safely and accurately. I had to submit fingerprints to SLED and I paid for a background check. I had to submit photos of myself to SLED. I have to carry with me a permit in case I should be stopped by a police officer. The whole process cost me several hundreds of dollars. My point is, that I am a decent, law-abiding person (with money to spend, I might add) who is not welcome in Columbia Mall.

I am insulted that Columbia Mall thinks that I am part of the problem. I guarantee to you that I am part of the solution. I will not shop at a place that does not respect me and my rights. I will not spend my money in a place where I am treated as a villain, when I have done nothing wrong. I will not risk disarming myself just to shop at this mall, and I will not break the law to enter this mall armed! I will suggest that Columbia Mall replace those signs with new signs that say something like this: "CWP holders welcome" or "Weapons carried by officially licensed persons allowed." Thank you for your consideration,

Kim, Irmo



More on Columbia Mall

I sent the following to Columbia Mall:

I would like to express my sincere disappointment in the ownership and management of Columbia Mall. Your posting against the carrying of concealed weapons on mall property by persons who hold a SC Concealed Weapon Permit is unacceptable.

In South Carolina there are over 22,000 licensed concealed weapon permit holders. These men and women, myself included, are law-abiding citizens and have been deemed fit to carry a concealed weapon by the state of South Carolina. We are trained and have passed a FBI background check. We do not carry for fun. We carry for protection and take this responsibility very seriously.

Columbia Mall and its surrounding area are not safe. Can you as a business owner really say that you do not want 22,000+ law-abiding citizens shopping in your mall?

I ask that you reconsider this posting, and make it possible for the law abiding public to again shop and feel safe in and around Columbia Mall.

D.M., West Columbia, SC

Success Story at Central True Value Hardware in Moncks Corner

(Editor.: The following is a letter written to the True Value Hardware Store by a Grass Root's member. Make sure to read the outcome too.)

August 16, 1999

Mr. Kevin E. Housand
Central True Value Hardware
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Dear Mr. Housand,
Thank you for the kind welcome package you sent to my bride. The generous offer of keys, a smoke detector and 4-in-1 screwdriver is very generous. The offers demonstrate a sincere effort to attract new customers.

Within the last two weeks (and prior to your generous coupon offer to my bride) I was attempting to install our new dishwasher. I needed a fitting and recalled seeing your establishment on Main Street. It was closer than Wal-Mart and I thought had a better probability of having the fitting I needed. It was almost closing time and I hurried to the door. Your "No Concealed Weapons" sign was clearly visible. I hesitated and considered my options. Reluctantly I secured my weapon in my vehicle and complied with your "No Concealed Weapons" posting. I quickly completed my small purchase and felt relieved to depart from your store. You put me on notice that only criminals would be armed in your establishment.

Thank you for inviting us to trade with you. We will respectfully decline shopping where only criminals are armed. Even though Wal-Mart is a not as close, they do not me from protecting my bride. I hope they can come close to your selection. I know I will feel more secure in their establishment.

I would hope that you would rethink your policy. I try very hard to support local businesses. I do feel that they need to support my personal safety and me. I regret that you take a stand that requires me to be at the mercy of criminals if I try to patronize your business.

This letter is being shared with Grass Roots South Carolina. This group seeks to educate the public on concealed carry issues. Thank you for your time. I am,
Sincerely yours,

R.N.J., Moncks Corner, SC

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

And the outcome...

I got a phone call from Kevin Houshand at Central True Value Hardware here in Moncks Corner. He was responding to my letter about the no concealed weapons sign at his store.

He told me that sign had been provided by the State of SC along with the other required workplace signs (Workman's Comp, O.S.H.A, etc). After he got my letter, he called the licensing people in Columbia and asked the No Concealed Weapons sign was required. The first person he talked to waffled on the issue (ignorance on the part of a telephone receptionist is my guess). She promised to send him the legislation. It never arrived. A couple of weeks later he called again and talked to another person. He was told that the signs were not required and was sent a copy of the legislation. After reading the legislation he removed the No Concealed Weapons signs. He called to relay this story.

The next goal is to get Home Telephone to remove their signs. Please pass the word. Many thanks! **R.N.J.**

(note: LLR has now stopped issuing "No Concealed Weapons" signs to Merchants)

Letter to Piggly Wiggly No. 79 and Piggly Wiggly's Response

Todd (and anyone else who is interested), here is the letter that I sent:

Mr. James Hook
Piggly Wiggly No. 79
Caroline Square
2702 Emmanuel Church Road
West Columbia, SC 29169

Dear Mr. Hook,

I visited your store yesterday on the way home from work, but, unfortunately, it will be the last time anyone in my family will be able to spend money in your store. Why? Simply because I feel unwelcome and unsafe shopping in your store. By placing a "No Concealable Weapons" sign on your door you have done two things: 1) Told me that I am unwelcome there; 2) Told all criminals that your store is a "Gun-Free Zone", thereby making their illegal activity much safer for them.

Why do I feel unwelcome? I have spent my time (8 hours over a two day period) and hard-earned money (\$80 for the class; \$50 non-refundable fee to SLED)

in order to legally obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon (CWP). Your sign tells me that you do not want me to shop with you. Why is it a bad thing to have someone shop with you who has been through 8 hours of training, been approved by SLED and the FBI as to having no criminal record, and is a law-abiding citizen of this state? Are you afraid of extra liability? Did you know that it was actually written into the CWP law that anyone who does not post signs does not incur added liability? Some in the insurance industry have interpreted this to mean that those who do post signs against concealed carry increase their liability, as they are not allowing individuals to exercise their right to self-defense. Wal-Mart used to post signs against concealed carry. After studying their position, the signs came down. What do you know that their battery of lawyers could not figure out? Do you actually think your sign will keep criminals with guns out of your store? Since when did criminals start obeying the law, much less a sign? The only people you are keeping out of your store with that sign are law-abiding citizens!

Are you afraid that your other customers will be "scared" if they know there are law-abiding citizens carrying concealed weapons in your store? The key word is concealed. They are not supposed to know that a CWP-holder is even carrying a gun! Are you afraid that a CWP-holder will commit a crime while in your store? There are over 22,000 CWP-holders in the state of South Carolina. Not one has been convicted of using a firearm to commit a crime. Can you say that about any other group of people that shop in your store?

If you decide to change your mind and take down your current sign, but would still like to post a message to anyone who might illegally bring a gun into your store, there is an alternative. Grass Roots South Carolina (GRSC) is an organization dedicated to preserving our Constitutional rights as provided for in the Second Amendment. They have an alternative sign that states: "No Firearms Permitted Except by Law Enforcement and Those Legally Licensed to Carry Concealed Handguns". If you would like to replace your current sign with this alternative, please contact me

and I will provide it for you. GRSC also has a list of merchants who post against law-abiding CWP holders. This list is distributed to many people statewide and is posted on the Internet site. If I haven't heard from you by the end of September, or your current signs have not been changed by then, I will submit your business to this list so that all other CWP-holders will know that they are not welcome in your store.

I do not normally shop at Food Lion, but with Bi-Lo opening a store just down the street from you, as long as you do not allow me to come into your store you can rest assured that they will get all of my business in the future. Please do not perceive this letter as a threat. I simply wanted you to be aware that you are discriminating against an increasingly large group of law-abiding citizens. If you would like to discuss this issue, you may reach me at the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

C.V. Lexington, SC

And the outcome...

Last week I wrote a letter to the operator of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store in Caroline Square at Platt Springs and Emmanuel Church roads. This store is on my way home from work, the golf course (Charwood), and Mid-Carolina. It is very convenient for me to stop there and pick up the things I need. At least it WAS until I noticed that they post against CWP. So, I wrote my first letter to a



**"Do you have the right to
free speech?"**

"Do you own a gun?"

(Think about it.)

merchant who posts. I really wasn't sure what to expect. I was kind, but to the point. I used many of the points that I have seen others on this mail list use, and for that I am grateful. I also reminded

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

him that Bi-Lo does not post and that I would be shopping at the new one being built about a mile down the road as long as his store continued posting.

Well, last evening I received a phone call from the Vice President of Operations for Piggly Wiggly. I wish I had written his name and title down, but I was trying to get my daughter to her ball game (she's a cheerleader) and we were already running late. He called to let me know that the store operator had forwarded my letter on to him and he wanted to respond personally. He said that he is a member of the NRA and the president of the Columbia chapter of a turkey association (I was REALLY in a hurry!) and, therefore, he agreed with my sentiments on the 2nd Amendment and with the CWP law. Unfortunately, the decision to post against CWP came from the Piggly Wiggly lawyers when the CWP law was first passed. He said that he was intrigued by the part of my letter where I mentioned that the Wal-Mart lawyers had thoroughly studied the matter and promptly removed their signs and that even some in the insurance industry think that posting against CWP INCREASES a merchant's liability. I also pointed out in the letter the fact that CWP holders have remained law-abiding citizens after obtaining their permit and that crime has actually gone DOWN in those states with "shall issue" laws.

He promised that he would pass my letter on to the Piggly Wiggly lawyers and that they would revisit this issue to see if the signs can come down (I did mention the GRSC alternate sign). He also asked for a little time for this to take place and that whatever the decision, he would personally call me back and discuss it with me. Overall, I was impressed with his candor and with his promise that the issue would be revisited. I was especially impressed that he called me personally, instead of sending a letter, which leads me to believe he intends to follow through.

You know, this getting involved is pretty cool! Have you tried it lately?

Best regards, **C.V. Lexington, SC**
C.V. Lexington, SC

UPS Reconsiders Policy Change

Due to overwhelming negative response, UPS has put off their decision to only

allow handguns to be shipped next day air indefinitely. Congratulations!! Thanks to your help, we avoided what could have been a big problem for little dealers in our industry.

N.S. Loris, SC

Anti-Gun Hechinger Co. Goes Under

Today's (Fri 9/10/99) Wall Street Journal reports (p. A4) that Hechinger Co. will liquidate itself, after going-out-of-business sales at its remaining stores. The company is based in MD, and operates 117 stores (Hechinger's, Home Quarters, and Builder's Square), mostly in the Mid-Atlantic States.

The company's original owner, John Hechinger, is an HCI Board member. Pro-gunners have been boycotting Hechinger's since at least the early 90's, and may have contributed to this demise. (Although one should thank Lowe's and Home Depot, as well.:-) You can confirm Hechinger's anti-gun history by looking up nra.org's list of prominent anti-gun activists.

According to the WSJ, John Hechinger sold his interest in 1997, to a company that also bought the Builder's Square stores from K-Mart, and attempted to combine the two lines. An odd wrinkle in the deal makes K-Mart liable for the rent on Builder's Square stores, if the new Hechinger/Builder's-Square company is unable to pay it. (WSJ says K-Mart had to pay \$230M last quarter.)

So if Hechinger's goes bust, it's going to cost K-Mart a bunch of money. Sounds like what they call a "WIN-WIN" scenario for pro-gun interests...

When Hechinger's had going out of business sales around here they gave 10% off the first week, 20% the next week, 30%, etc. If you're thinking of buying, I suggest holding off as long as possible. Look at it this way: any money you can avoid giving to Hechinger's ... will have to be made up by K-Mart. :-)

B.M.

Letters to the editor, The State, July 8, 1999

"Safety proposals are just plot to ban guns."

I've been a police officer for seventeen years and a member of the National Rifle Association for twenty-five years.

I say without hesitation I am in far more danger from a government that is relentless in its destruction of our constitutional freedoms and privacy than from 60 million Americans who possess firearms.

Guns used in crimes account for less than 0.5 percent of the 200 million-plus firearms in this country. Firearms actually prevent crimes far more than they are used in criminal acts. Criminals are just as much in favor of more restrictions on guns as politicians like Ted Kennedy.

The trashing of traditional values, sympathetic attitudes toward criminals, and the disintegration of strong families are conducive to criminal violence. All are promoted by the same kinds of political and social engineers who blame guns for crimes.

Not one of the many federal firearms laws passed in the past 35 years has reduced crime. Nevertheless, anti-gun proposals continue to be touted as the grand solution.

Gun control and "gun safety" are not about "saving children" and "keeping guns out of the hands of criminals."

These terms are smoke and mirrors fabricated for public consumption and support. They are worn out and hollow excuses used to promote the goal of eliminating private ownership and possession of firearms in America.

A.B. Greenville, SC

Response from K-Mart

I received a response back from my E-mails and snail mail that I sent to Kmart regarding Rosie O'Donnell. I quote:

"Dear sir. Thank you for sharing your views about Rosie O'Donnell and the firearms issue with us. We will share your message with Rosie too. Kmart respects Rosie O'Donnell's rights of Freedom of Expression; however the views that Rosie expresses are her own. While she is an actress who appears in Kmart commercials, she does not speak for the company. Kmart believes in the importance of the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms. As a retailer of only legal sporting firearms, our corporate

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

stance is to advocate their safe responsible sale and ownership. Kmart has in place extensive policies and procedures to ensure that all FBI and ATF requirements are followed by our sporting goods personnel in all firearms sales. Kmart also participates with various organizations and law enforcement offices to incorporate firearms safety programs in communities we serve. We have and will continue to share our views with Rosie O'Donnell. Thank you again for writing. We appreciate your shopping at Kmart and hope you will continue to do so. Sincerely, Shawn Kahle."

My response is going to be, "Don't hold your breath as long as Rosie is your representative; Me nor my family, friends or employees will spend one cent in any Kmart store if we have to drive 50 miles to find a Wal-Mart. I think Mr. Kahle that you and your board of directors take this issue too lightly, when it starts to affect your bottom line you will have a change of heart, it may then be too late to win tens of thousands of us back to the Kmart fold. This issue is not going to simply fade away, check out the Internet it is still a hot topic and a lot of people are really steamed at Kmart. A form letter such as you sent to me and God knows how many others has done nothing to take the heat out of this issue. Nothing less than a public apology and a quick termination of Rosie O'Donnell will make this issue go away.

I note these additional establishments that post the no concealed weapons allowed signs in the Charleston area:

James Island Cleaners
1739 Maybank Hwy
Charleston 29412

Carolina First Bank
852 Orleans Rd
Charleston, SC 29407

Charleston Area Federal Credit Union
1845 Sam Rittenburg
Charleston, SC 29407

(Incidentally, the woman I spoke to at Carolina First, who did not give her name, said the fact that they posted the sign was none of my business. I advised that I was listing their name with SC Grass Roots organization which would

possibly send some information on the subject and she advised me that it was none of Grass Root's, whoever they are, business either.) Wow, what a way to stimulate business, huh?

Incidentally, First Citizens Bank in Charleston still has its signs posted.

Ed, Charleston, SC

Waffle House Position on CWP

A GRSC member requested Waffle House's position on CWP. I wrote their security guy in Georgia (name escapes me) and got a waffling letter back as to how HE had a CWP but Waffle House wanted all their customers to feel "secure" and so please would I not carry in their restaurants. I sure do miss those pecan waffles! Since I have personally been put on notice I do not use their facilities. It should be noted that the signs they have on the sides of the buildings do not meet the posting requirements of SC law. Check with your legal advisor, but I have been told any "posted" signs must be at each entrance to the building on or adjacent to the door. If anyone is hassled they should be sure to inspect all doors for proper posting and be sure any arresting officer notes them as well. I am not a lawyer but this seems like a good defense.

Ralph Baker, Sumter, SC

Concealment Considerations in Emergency Situations

Yesterday I was involved in an automobile accident, when some lead footed youngster tried to pass me on a double yellow line traveling at least 50mph (that's what he admitted to the LEO) in a 35mph zone. Unfortunately for me I was in the process of turning left and he T-boned me.

At this point I don't think I was too seriously injured (only time will tell for certain)- only bumps and bruises, aches and pains so far.

I was sitting there in a state of confusion watching the constellations spin around my head when the EMTs started discussing how to extract me from my vehicle. In a moment of quasi-clarity I started worrying about what to do with my weapon I always carry in my fanny pack.

I realize in retrospect that in the grand scheme of things such a worry should not

be a major concern compared to the other issues at hand. However it seemed very important to me at the time, because: 1) the weapon had great sentimental value-had it for 25+ years (my first handgun, a S&W M#36 w/3" tube that shoots as sweet as they come), 2) I'm not sure if I could afford to replace it had I lost it, 3) I did not want it to end up in the hand of some (as Jeff Cooper so diplomatically puts it) goblin and 4) I wished to comply with the law.

I told the EMT about my weapon and she told me not to worry, the LEO would probably take it and hold it for me. This relieved me. However when the LEO arrived, all he would do was put it in my car trunk.

This caused me more worry in the next few hours because my head took out the driver's side window and the trunk release on my auto beside my seat would be accessible and it cannot be disabled. BTW, my glove box has no lock.

I continued to worry about this until I was released from the hospital 4 hrs later, found out where my car was and, thank God, retrieved my weapon.

I'm not griping about the LEO. After all, he has his own rules, regulations and priorities. But this kind of situation provides food for thought at least about vehicle selection and a couple other topics. My next auto will have a locking glove box and if it has a remote trunk release, it will have a disabling feature.

I wonder also if I should have said nothing and let the weapon go with me. In a confused or perhaps unconscious state of mind after an accident, how could anyone be held responsible for someone else bringing you with your weapon into a medical facility? It's a damned shame that the revocable right to bear arms that the state has so graciously deemed fit to allow me to so conditionally exercise has me so scared that I worried about such trivial matters in such a time of medical crisis.

Your comments and thoughts are appreciated.

Now that the immediate crisis is over, all I have to worry about is how badly the insurance company will try to treat me. The damned car was new in March.

R.S. Pamplico, SC

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

Alex's Restaurant in Goose Creek Switches to GRSC Sign

Dear Grass Roots of SC:

I wanted to let you know the alternative signs you sent me for Alex's Restaurant in Goose Creek is now up on the door. My boyfriend asked the owner if she would consider taking down her No Concealed Weapons sign and replacing it with the alternative sign. She said fine at first but then kept putting us off. Finally I ran into her in the Restaurant (it is rare because she owns a lot of them and is seldom there) and I told her I had the sign with me and would she mind putting it up or would she like me to put it up for her. She said it would be fine to post the alternative sign on her door and I was so proud to be the one to put it up. So now when we go into Alex's my boyfriend and I both proudly carry our concealed weapons Thanks to Grass Roots for having the Alternative Sign. We both thank you more than words can say.

Carol, Goose Creek, SC

UPS in Rock Hill

I was in the UPS office in Rock Hill, SC today and discussed the "No Weapons" sign on the front door.

The clerk said she had never considered putting herself in danger with the "No Weapons" sign posted. She said she was going to talk to her boss. I hope it does some good.

I am enclosing the local UPS address. Keep up the good work.

H.N.B. Rock Hill, SC

W.E. Willis of Travelers Rest

Dear Mr. Willis:

I have a customer at your Greer location at Hwy 14 & Gap Creek Road since you have been in business there and have enjoyed the convenience and quality of service offered. I average expenditures of \$100-\$150 a month (6 vehicles).

I recently completed the required training and obtained a legal CWP from South Carolina and I do carry a concealed weapon at all times. I am thankful to say I have had only one occasion that I needed to prepare to use the weapon and the party decided to desist without my displaying it. Although I did carry illegally before receiving the CWP, I have been made aware through the process that significant penalties are

possible if a permit holder violates a business owner's posting. As a law-abiding citizen I do not feel comfortable on you premises carrying illegally, and I am also not comfortable not carrying at all. I personally do not see why any business owner or anyone else should be concerned with legal permit holders being on their property since criminals by definition do not obey laws anyway. The track record over the country has proven that CWP programs are very positive forces in reducing crime. I wish to appeal to you to rethink your position on concealed weapons on your premises and remove your sign(s). I know you have several other locations in the upstate that I have not visited but I assume you have the same policy throughout. I am also a member of Grass Roots South Carolina (GRSC), a group that is the primary organization supporting the rights of CWP holders in this state. Eventually, every CWP holder will receive the organization's newsletter which includes a listing of businesses that see fit to restrict CWP holders. I will submit your list of businesses for print if the signs remain more than two months hereafter. I do not know the exact number of permit holders in the state now, but it is enough to impact profits if they choose to not violate the law at your establishments. I appreciate your taking the time to read my letter and wish you the best regardless of your decision.

J.W.L. Greenville, SC

Money Man Pawn in Charleston

To Grassroots of South Carolina:

I recently noticed the following businesses in the Charleston area which have No Concealed carry signs posted:

Piggly-Wiggly, 119 College Park, Rd. Ladson, SC 29456 (843) 572 3936 - Manager Mr. Bill Jones

Money Man Pawn Shop, Frontage Road at 1-26, Summerville, SC (843) 831-7296 Manager: Chris

I spoke with Chris on 17 July, 1999. He was very nice and polite. Stated that this is company policy for all stores Was aware of accepting responsibility for all patrons, but due to numbers of drug users, etc. who frequent pawn shops they would not change policy. Also people come in carrying loaded guns they are trying to sell/pawn while drunk. etc.

Money Man currently has 7 stores listed in the Charleston phone book.

Please note I did not contact any of the other stores in this chain. I only spoke with Chris at the Farmingham Road store. Several of their competitors do not have the "No Concealed Carry" signs posted. It's a shame too as they have a nice selection of firearms and a gunsmith on site Keep up the good work.

J.B.G. Ladson, SC

American Federal Bank Responds to GRSC Member

Thank you for your Computer Banking e-mail regarding the bank's concealed weapons policy. As manager of Physical Security, your e-mail was forwarded to my attention.

Considering that the Federal Government does not regulate concealed weapons, each individual state handles its own legislation regarding where concealed weapons are permitted. In South Carolina, a posting is required to prevent concealed weapons at financial institutions.

Executive Management at American Federal Bank has determined that the concealed weapons signs are to be posted at all branch locations. In an environment where employees and customers fear the impending risk of robbery, the concealed weapons policy contributes to their personal security and well being. If individuals routinely had handguns present, the tellers and customers may feel uneasy towards that person and regard him/her as a potential threat, even if the individual has no harmful intentions.

On behalf of American Federal Bank, I would like to encourage you to maintain your banking relationship. Computer Banking provides an alternative to conducting banking business within the branch environment and hope you will advocate this alternative banking in your newsletter. I appreciate your understanding of the bank's position in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Davis, V.P.

Physical Security Manager

cc: Bob Simonet, AFB Regional Executive; Paula Veasey, Corporate Security Officer

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Editor: Regarding the letter sent by Mr. Davis, it is apparent American Federal has spent little or no time exploring the CWP issues. In fact, it appears they haven't even considered the definition of the word "concealed" or the fact that by posting they offer a "killing field" environment for criminals. I wonder how many of their tellers feel like sitting ducks. Criminals seem to be welcomed at American Federal while certified law-abiding citizens are prohibited from entry.

First Time Reporting a Business that Posts Against CWP

I like your newsletters. They give me information I can't get elsewhere. They are the only way I can keep current about CWP news and issues. This is my first time to send in the name of a business that posts against CWP.

Posted: Carolina Tire Co., Chester, SC
W.R., Chester, SC

AAA Marine in Pickens, SC Posted Against CWP

AAA Bait and Marine has posted against concealed weapons permit holders for some time. They are located at: 506 W. Main, Pickens, SC 29671 Phone: (864) 878-3078.

I approached the owner in what I believed to be a friendly and calm way. When I told him that I would like him to reconsider his position he got very agitated and began to shout and call names and make threats, and would not give me his name. Please add this business to your web site listing.

T.S., Pickens, SC

Butler Hardware in Summerville Removes Signs!

I have some good news for you from my side of the state.

The owner of Butler Hardware has removed the sign on his establishment! I visited the store today and confirmed its removal. Come to find out, no one there really knows how the sign got there in the first place.

More good news. I had to eat breakfast at Alex's Restaurant located in Goose Creek, as they were the only restaurant open at that hour. I noticed they had removed their sign and replaced it with a "No Firearms Permitted Except..." sign

like the one you sent me. I would suggest they be removed from the list as well and placed on the Welcome Back list.

R.E.T., Summerville, SC

Waffle House Shootings Leave Two Dead in Upstate

(Ed: Thanks to everyone who sent in clippings of the Associated Press article titled as above. Here's the typical GRSC member response to the Waffle House incident)

To Grass Roots:

Didn't know whether or not you had this article. I guess they (the criminals) couldn't read the "No Firearms" signs. Wonder how many dangerous incidents occur at the "guns free" Waffle Houses?

F.H., Columbia, SC

REMINDER! ADVISE LAW ENFORCEMENT OF CWP FIRST!

I am taking a few minutes to write you concerning an incident that happened to me last Saturday night.

I was traveling down the highway at what I thought was between 55 and 60 miles per hour at approximately 10:45 P.M. Obviously, a member of our highway patrol thought differently and stopped me for speeding. He issued me a warning ticket to which I expressed my gratitude.

I then proceeded to show my CWP as I was instructed to do so during my training class. The trooper became totally unprofessional and "ballistic" in his behavior and addressed me as follows: "Do you not realize that your permit can be revoked immediately, at once, tonight, for failure to present this to me when you were initially stopped?" I assumed one presented one's driver's license then your permit. I was not instructed as to the proper procedure during my training class. Is this an official law? I am writing to perhaps spare other CWP holders the embarrassment I felt, and if you would publish this letter or parts of it I would greatly appreciate it.

Keep up the good work and may our organization grow stronger and stronger.

P.S. I have no personal "agenda" against the state

police. They have my complete and total support.

Rebecca, Iva, SC

Editor: Yes it is the law. Thanks for reminding everyone of this aspect of our current CWP law.

A GRSC Member Writes to Us About Elizabeth Dole

I thought you might be interested in note about Elizabeth Dole:

"Presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole wants to outlaw concealed carry by law-abiding citizens. She also wants to outlaw "cop-killer" bullets. Never mind that they have never been offered for sale. Sheesh."

L.T., Ft. Mill, SC

Eighteen Businesses in Walterboro, SC Remove or Replace Signs

Grass Roots members in Walterboro owe a BIG "Thank You" to fellow member Mr. William "Bill" Kofron. William has the record (as far as we keep records) for being personally responsible for eighteen (18) businesses either removing or replacing their "No Concealed Weapons" signs. That's no typo folks! Just goes to show you what can happen if you choose to make positive change in your community. I have asked Bill to share his tips on communicating with merchants via an article in a future newsletter. Briefly, and modestly, he says that personal contact with merchants is his key to success. Bill uses personal visits, offers alternative signs, and follows up with another personal visit anytime a merchant requests some time to consider making a change. If you live in Walterboro and have seen our alternative signs, thank Bill for his front line efforts! Bill can be contacted online at: react@vrdom.com



A Liberal Democrat's Lament
Gun Control
is
**Racist, Sexist
& Classist**
By Robert J. Cottrol

Certainly one of the chief guarantees of freedom under any government, no matter how popular and respected, is the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms. This is not to say that firearms should not be very carefully used and that definite rules of precaution should not be taught and enforced. But the right of the citizen to bear arms is just one more safeguard against a tyranny which now appears remote in America, but which historically has proved to be always possible.

—Hubert Humphrey, 1960

My background is probably atypical for a somewhat high-profile supporter of the right to keep and bear arms. I am black and grew up in Manhattan's East Harlem, far removed from the great American gun culture of rural, white America. Although my voting patterns have become somewhat more conservative in recent years, I remain in my heart of hearts a 1960s Humphrey Democrat concerned with the plight of those most vulnerable in American society—minorities, the poor, the elderly, and single women—groups whose day-to-day realities are often overlooked in our public policy debates, people whose lives too often go unnoticed by our intellectually timid chattering classes. This is happening in the public debate over the right to bear arms.

For the nation's elites, the Second Amendment has become the Rodney Dangerfield of the Bill of Rights, constantly attacked by editorial writers, police chiefs seeking scapegoats, demagoging politicians, and most recently even by Rosie O'Donnell, no less. It is threatened by opportunistic legislative efforts, even when sponsors acknowledge their proposed legislation would have little impact on crime and violence.

Professional champions of civil rights and civil liberties have been unwilling to defend the underlying principle of the right to arms. Even the conservative defense has been timid and often inept, tied less, one suspects, to abiding principle and more to the dynamics of contemporary Republican politics. Thus a right older than the Republic, one that the drafters of two constitutional amendments the Second and the Fourteenth intended to protect, and a right whose critical importance has been painfully revealed by twentieth-century history, is left undefended by the lawyers, writers, and scholars we routinely expect to defend other constitutional rights. Instead, the Second Amendment's intellectual as well as political defense has been left in the unlikely hands of the National Rifle Association (NRA). And although the NRA deserves considerably better than the demonized reputation it has acquired, it should not be the sole or even principal voice in defense of a major constitutional provision.

This anemic defense is all the more embarrassing because it occurs as mounting evidence severely undermines the three propositions that have been central to the anti-gun movement since

its appearance on the national radar screen in the 1960s. The first proposition is that the Constitution, particularly the Second Amendment, poses no barrier to radical gun control, even total prohibition of private firearms. The second is that ordinary citizens with firearms are unlikely to defend themselves and are more likely to harm innocent parties with their guns. The final proposition is that the case for radical gun control is buttressed by comparing the United States to nations with more restrictive firearms policies. These propositions, now conventional wisdom, simply do not stand up to scrutiny.

The proposition that the Second Amendment poses no barrier to gun prohibition—a claim largely unknown before the 1960s—has run up against stubborn, contrary historical facts. Increasingly, historians and legal scholars, including many who support stricter gun control, have examined the history of the Second Amendment, the development of the right to arms in English political thought, judicial commentaries on the right in antebellum America, and the debates over the Fourteenth Amendment. The consensus among scholars who have actually looked at the evidence is that the Second

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and Fourteenth Amendments were meant to protect the citizen's right to arms. (See, for example, historian Joyce Lee Malcolm's Harvard University Press book, *To Keep and Bear Arms*, or the historical documents assembled in the three *Gun Control and the Constitution* volumes I've edited.)

Similarly, the criminological premises of the anti-gun movement have collapsed in the face of serious social science. For better than three decades the American public has been solemnly assured that peaceable citizens who possess guns for self-defense are disasters in waiting. "A gun in the home is more likely to kill a member of the family than to defend against an intruder," we hear. "Allowing citizens to carry firearms outside the home for self-protection will turn our streets into Dodge City and our parking lots into the O.K. Corral," the refrain goes.

Yet the criminological literature provides little support for this caricature of gun owners. Instead, careful research has discovered an incredibly high amount of firearms' being responsibly used in self-defense. Research by Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck and others indicate between two and three million cases of self-defense per year. Overwhelmingly these incidents involve not firing the weapon at the attacker, but simply brandishing it and thereby causing the attacker's withdrawal.

In recent years a majority of states have passed laws permitting honest citizens to carry concealed weapons, and the results tell us much about self-defense and the responsibility of the average citizen. Once it was passionately argued that such laws would turn minor altercations into bloody shoot-outs; now we know better. Over 1 million Americans have licenses to carry firearms, but firearms misuse by this group has been utterly negligible. Criminologists now debate not how much harm has been caused by concealed-carry laws, but how much good.

The most thorough research, by John Lott of the University of Chicago, reveals that concealed-carry laws have had a substantial deterrent effect on crimes of violence. His work shows that

women, especially, have benefited, as substantial drops in rapes and attacks on women have occurred where the laws have been enacted. Lott also discovered dramatic benefits for the urban poor and minorities: "Not only do urban areas tend to gain in their fight against crime, but reductions in crime rates are greatest precisely in those urban areas that have the highest crime rates, largest and most dense populations, and greatest concentrations of minorities."

The final proposition—that international comparisons prove the case for radical gun control—may be the most problematic of all. Certainly the simplistic conclusion that American homicide rates are higher than those in Western Europe and Japan because of the greater prevalence of firearms glosses over significant cultural and demographic differences between us and other advanced industrial nations.

The American population is younger and more diverse. Unlike Western Europe and Japan, the United States has always had a large number of immigrants and internal migrants. We also have a history of racial exclusion and a struggle against that exclusion as old as the Republic and without real parallel in comparable nations. All of these have contributed to crime rates higher than those in other western nations. Indeed, when a number of the cultural and demographic variables are controlled for, much of the apparent difference between American and Western European homicide rates disappears despite the greater presence of firearms in American society.

But international comparisons should raise deeper and more disturbing questions, questions too rarely asked in serious company. The central and usually unchallenged premise of the gun control movement is that society becomes more civilized when the citizen surrenders the means of self-defense, leaving the state a monopoly of force.

That this premise goes largely unchallenged is the most remarkable feature of our gun control debate. We are ending a century that has repeatedly witnessed the consequences of unchecked state monopolies of force. University of Hawaii political scientist

Rudolph J. Rummel, one of the leading students of democide (mass murder of civilian populations by governments), has estimated that nearly 170 million people have been murdered by their own governments in our century. The familiar list of mass murderers—Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot—only scratches the surface. The mass slaughter of helpless, unarmed civilian populations continues to this very day in Sudan, Rwanda, and parts of the former Yugoslavia.

The reluctance of outside forces to intervene is well documented. And yet the obvious question is strangely absent: Would arms in the hands of average citizens have made a difference? Could the overstretched Nazi war machine have murdered 11 million armed and resisting Europeans while also taking on the Soviet and Anglo-American armies? Could 50,000-70,000 Khmer Rouge have butchered 2-3 million armed Cambodians? These questions bear repeating. The answers are by no means clear, but it is unconscionable they are not being asked.

Need Americans have such concerns? Well, we have been spared rule by dictators, but state tyranny can come in other forms. It can come when government refuses to protect unpopular groups—people who are disfavored because of their political or religious beliefs, or their ancestry, or the color of their skin. Our past has certainly not been free of this brand of state tyranny. In the Jim Crow South, for example, government failed and indeed refused to protect blacks from extra-legal violence. Given our history, it's stunning we fail to question those who would force upon us a total reliance on the state for defense.

Nor should our discussion of freedom and the right to arms be limited to foreign or historical examples. The lives and freedoms of decent, law-abiding citizens throughout our nation, especially in our dangerous inner cities, are constantly threatened by criminal predators. This has devastated minority communities. And yet the effort to limit the right to armed self-defense has been most intense in such communities. Bans on firearms ownership in public housing, the constant effort to ban pistols poor

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people can afford—scornfully labeled "Saturday Night Specials" and more recently "junk guns"—are denying the means of self-defense to entire communities in a failed attempt to disarm criminal predators. In too many communities, particularly under-protected minority communities, citizens have simply been disarmed and left to the mercy of well-armed criminals.

This has led to further curtailment of freedom. Consider initiatives in recent years to require tenants in public housing to allow their apartments to be searched: First, police failed for decades, for justifiable but also far too frequently unjustifiable reasons, to protect citizens in many of our most dangerous public housing projects. Next, as the situation became sufficiently desperate, tenants were prohibited from owning firearms for their own defense. Finally the demand came, "Surrender your right to privacy in your home." The message could not be clearer: A people incapable of protecting themselves will lose their rights as a free people, becoming either servile dependents of the state or of the criminal predators who are their de facto masters.

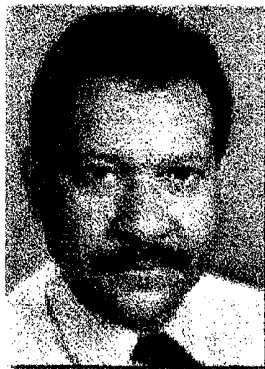
All of this should force us to reconsider our debate over arms and rights. For too long, it has been framed as a question of the rights of sportsmen. It is far more serious: The Second Amendment has something critical to say about the relationship between the citizen and the state. For most of human history, in most of the nations in the world, the individual has all too often been a helpless dependent of the state, beholden to the state's benevolence and indeed competence for his physical survival.

The notion of a right to arms bespeaks a very different relationship. It says the individual is not simply a helpless bystander in the difficult and dangerous task of ensuring his or her safety. Instead, the citizen is an active participant, an equal partner with the state in ensuring not only his own safety but that of his community.

This is a serious right for serious people. It takes the individual from servile dependency on the state to the status of

participating citizen, capable of making intelligent choices in defense of one's life and ultimately one's freedom. This conception of citizenship recognizes that the ultimate civil right is the right to defend one's own life, that without that right all other rights are meaningless, and that without the means of self-defense the right to self-defense is but an empty promise.

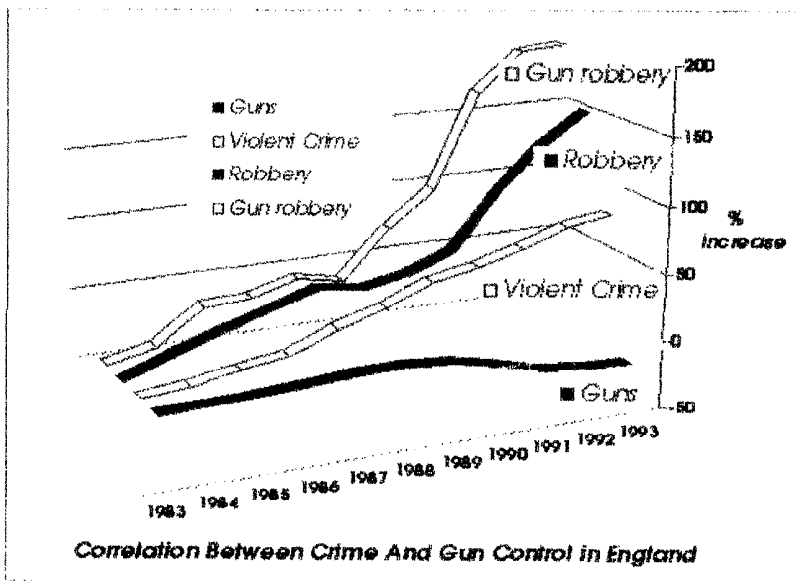
Our serious thinkers have been absent from this debate for too long. The Second Amendment is simply too important to leave to the gun nuts.



Robert J. Cottrol is professor of law and history and the Harold Paul Green Research Professor at the George Washington University. His most recent book is From African to Yankee: Narratives of Slavery and Freedom in Antebellum New England.

The article above is reprinted with permission of the author and from *The American Enterprise*, a national magazine of politics, business, and culture.

(end)



Excerpts from: Loaded Guns Can Be Good for Kids

by Dave Kopel and Eugene Volokh published as a Cato Institute Daily Online Commentary June 1, 1999

"Any parent knows that a single child's death is unspeakably tragic. Yet the number of toddlers who die from gun accidents is smaller than the number who die from drowning in buckets. And it's much lower than the 500 who die in swimming pools."

Jolly Old England

I read on the electronic version of the London Daily Telegraph last night that a 54 years old farmer had been arrested for shooting two burglars at his farm home; one dead and one badly wounded. This poor man is said to be the victim of several such break-ins over the past two years. Apparently rural crime is at an all time high in the United Kingdom; with the county of Norfolk, where the shooting took place, being statistically as bad as London or Liverpool. It has become so intolerable for some landowners that ex Special Forces members are offering their services to combat this rural crime wave. The country folk, of what was once a jolly country, are frustrated at the poor police response to their growing concerns!

RJK Sr.

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association



Introduction and Notice of Tape Availability - The Laws of Self Defense in South Carolina

Hello fellow members of the SCCWPIA and GRSC. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. For those of you that I have not had the privilege of meeting yet, my name is Tim Finley and I am the new South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association (SCCWPIA) Liaison for Grass Roots South Carolina (GRSC).

Those of you who have been members for some time may already be familiar with the SCCWPIA's videotape on the Law of Self-Defense in South Carolina. This video was produced by the SCCWPIA and features the SCCWPIA's first President, Mr. William Osborne and Mr. Warren Mowry, Esq., an attorney in Greenville, SC. The video presents a concise and easily understandable overview of the law of self-defense in South Carolina and is a SLED approved instructional aid for CWP instruction.

This tape was formerly available only to CWP instructors and law enforcement. It is now being made available to CWP instructors and CWP holder members of GRSC. CWP instructors are encouraged to purchase a copy of this videotape and incorporate it into their lesson plan. CWP holders are encouraged to purchase a copy of this tape and review it periodically to refresh their knowledge of the law of self-defense in South Carolina. The use of this tape in teaching the legal portion of CWP training, can

help avoid the possibility of instructor-based civil liability claims. Periodic review of the tape by the CWP holder will help insure that the CWP holder has a clear understanding of the law of self-defense in South Carolina, so as to minimize the possibility of criminal or civil liability in the event that they are placed in the unfortunate position of being required to utilize deadly force.

The videotape is approximately 30 minutes in length. It is again available at the very reasonable cost of \$15.95. If you would like to purchase a copy of this videotape, please forward your check or money order to:
SCCWPIA/GRSC, P.O. Box 1181,
Sumter, SC 29151.

On a different note, the SCCWPIA is in the process of creating a "Code of Ethics" for our CWP instructor members. Anyone with ideas or suggestions for achieving this goal, please write to Tim Finley, P.O. Box 2992, Greenville, SC 29602-2992 or e-mail: tefinley@mindspring.com

I'll look forward to meeting each of you in the near future. Until the next newsletter, BeSafe!

Tim

Liaison, SCCWPIA/GRSC

BeSafe SC CWP Training website-
<http://tefinley.home.mindspring.com>

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it. -Thomas Paine

Range Safety, another perspective by Ed Kelleher

Be aware, it's not just the government that wants your guns. There are other criminals out there as well.

I've had several reports over the last few months of there being considerable law enforcement activity near, or at, our shooting range due to suspected criminals on the run. If a criminal wants a gun and a vehicle, he (or she) might figure a shooting range is a good place to do a little "shopping". Here are several things you should do when at the range (and other times too):

1) Be aware. Whenever you're carrying or using firearms you should be in a heightened state of awareness. You are a more attractive target because besides money and a vehicle, you now have something else criminals on the run want - guns. Carrying a gun doesn't help much if, through inattention, you let somebody bop you on the head or otherwise get the drop on you. So, be aware.

2) Always be armed. Don't leave yourself defenseless when you go down range to set some targets. At least carry a handgun. SC law lets club members carry pistols, openly or concealed, going to or from the range and when on the range, even without a CWP. Here's one of the conditions under which the law says you may carry a pistol, concealed or otherwise:

Section 16-23-20 (3): Members of organizations authorized by law to purchase or receive firearms from the United States or this State, or regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of target shooting or collecting modern and antique firearms while such members are at or going to or from their places of target practice or their shows and exhibits.

3) Don't leave an operable gun unattended. On the rifle range, when you go down range, take your rifle with you. Carrying it and working while carrying it are good practice. Of course, being lazy, we'll tend not to do that. So, at least take the bolt, magazines or ammo with you. Don't leave an operable gun unattended.

There are several reasons for this. One, if someone does snatch your gun, it'll be some consolation (not much, but some -- I know) that at least the son of a bitch couldn't easily use it. Two, if somebody grabs your rifle and decides you make a nice moving target at the 200 yard line, you're going to have to be REAL good with a handgun to nail someone with a rifle before they get you.

Exercise your rights, but exercise your brain and self-discipline as well. As always, range safety depends on you!
(end)

The Unpopular Truth About Kids and Guns

By Ken Hamblin
as published by NewsMax.com
Sept.30, 1999

Years of experience have taught me that no one is better at pulling the wool over the eyes of the American people than the "ethical, objective" journalists of the mainstream media.

Challenge your typical city editor, television assignment editor or newspaper publisher with that contention, however, and I can assure you that he or she will passionately deny it.

I realize it's no light accusation to charge that the fourth estate and the electronic-media clique manage our news on behalf of their own political agendas. I also am quite aware that in doing so I am assailing a group that holds itself in august esteem and very much wants others to share that view.

But day after day I see examples of bias in the direction of the media corps' admittedly generally liberal leanings — bias sometimes expressed in deliberate distortions but, just as often and potentially just as dangerously, in errors of omission.

Take, for instance, the matter of a recent study by the United States Department of Justice, which not long ago was brought to my attention by a listener to my syndicated talk-radio show.

Conducted from 1993 to 1995 by the department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, this study was undertaken in an attempt to determine the relationship between "problem behaviors" such as drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, crime and the expanding occurrence of violent criminal behavior among our youth.

Child psychologists conversed with and tracked the lives of 4,000 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 15 in Pittsburgh, Denver and Rochester, N.Y. What they learned apparently wasn't what the media's town criers against firearms wanted to hear — or, at any rate, that seems the most likely reason that, to the best of my knowledge, the study never was reported on the nightly

television news or in most big-city newspapers.

Nevertheless, the government's conclusions are striking. Children who get guns from their parents are no more likely to commit any kind of street crime than are those children who have no gun in the house, the study revealed. And children who acquire an illegal gun are about five times more likely to commit street crimes than are kids who get guns from their parents.

In short, children who get guns from their parents are not the ones who commit gun crimes, according to this study. It's children who get guns illegally who are most likely to commit such crimes.

Moreover, children who obtain illegal guns are almost four times more likely to use drugs than are children whose parents have given them guns.

"Boys who own legal firearms have much lower rates of delinquency and drug use," the study added, "and are even slightly less delinquent than non-owners of guns."

Why haven't we all heard this hard data? Why isn't the whole country talking about this clear evidence that guns and children are not in and of themselves at the root of society's problem with kids using guns to commit crimes?

Clearly the politicians — with the aid of their like-minded friends in the media — don't want to hear about evidence that counters their campaign to undermine, compromise and ultimately abolish our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. And, needless to say, they don't want you to hear about it, either.

From time to time I've spoken with Steve Desbach, the national director of the Libertarian Party, on my radio show. He agrees that this survey and others like it speak for themselves.

"The evidence is in," he says. "The simplest way to reduce firearm-related violence among children is to buy them

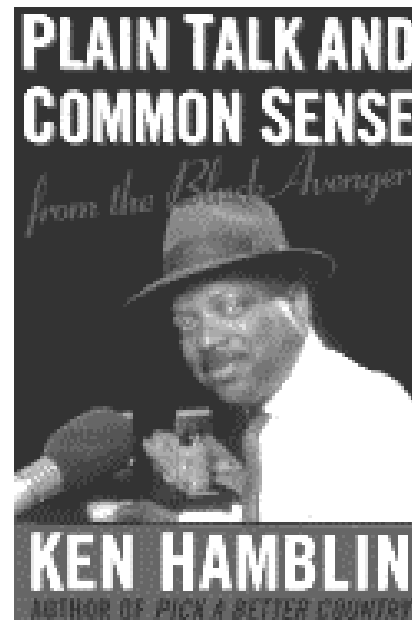
a gun and teach them how to use it responsibly. When it comes to preventing youthful violence, the Second Amendment apparently works better than the so-called solutions being proposed by politicians."

For myself, I find this study fascinating, and convincing. If the media wanted to try to interpret its results differently, I'd be prepared to listen — but to simply ignore it strikes me as the worst kind of irresponsibility.

To my brethren in the media, I can say only this: It's your right as free men and women to oppose the ownership of firearms and, yes, even to campaign against the ownership of guns.

But to deliberately stick your head in the sand concerning the statistics about violence among children with guns undercuts any evidence you can raise to support your arguments. When you ignore contrary evidence, what you do ceases to be reporting — it becomes propaganda, pure and simple.

And I'm sure that bright, intelligent men and women such as yourselves realize that, in resorting to propaganda, you're following in the well-worn footsteps of despots and bigots who, like yourselves, felt that what they personally believed counted for more than the facts.



c.1999 Ken Hamblin
Ken Hamblin is the author of "Pick a Better Country." He writes a column for the Denver Post and has been a radio talk-show host for 15 years. His program is syndicated by American View Inc., and currently is carried by 120 stations across the country.

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GRSC in the Media - Horry Independent

Legally-licensed Weapons Owners Trying to Open Doors to Business **By Kathy Ropp, Editor Horry Independent**

People who are legally-licensed to carry handguns are scoring some victories in South Carolina as they try to convince businesses not to bar their weapons.

Horry Telephone Cooperative in Conway Is one of the most recent converts to Join a list of almost 50 businesses statewide that have removed their window stickers barring concealed weapons.

The move to remove or change the signs is being spearheaded by a relatively-new organization known as Grass Roots of South Carolina. whose primary purpose is promoting the rights of people to carry concealed weapons.

"If you have a right to carry a concealed weapon, but everywhere you go says you can't carry it here, It's not much of a right," said Grass Roots Pres. Ed Kelleher of West Columbia.

He also claims that having to take a gun off before entering a business can create problems. The handler could drop it, causing it to fire or someone who sees the person take it off might steal it from his car or attack the person who they now know is unarmed.

Grass Roots takes the position that a business that unarms them is assuming responsibility for their protection. If they are injured on that property, they believe they can successfully sue the business.

Kelleher said an early opinion from the insurance industry agrees, but is quick to add that there are no precedent-setting court cases yet.

The organization counsels business owners to consult their own attorneys before making a decision on the signs.

Grass Roots will provide an alternative sticker free to businesses requesting them. The 4x7 inch sticker says, "No firearms are permitted in the store except by law enforcement and those

legally-licensed to carry concealed handguns."

In 1996, the S.C. Legislature approved a law allowing people who pass a firearms safety class and a stringent background check to carry a concealed weapon.

There are numerous places where a weapon can't be taken, including high school and collegiate athletic events, churches, hospitals, government buildings, municipal and other governmental meetings and schools. According to the law, a business owner who doesn't want concealed weapons brought inside can post a sticker barring them.

Estimates place the number of businesses barring concealed weapons at about 65 percent, most of them chain stores. Most independent stores don't post them.

About 34,000 people throughout South Carolina now have concealed carry permits. Horry County has about 850 people approved to carry concealed weapons.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Lowder who handles the permitting process in Horry County said he doesn't try to counsel businesses on the stickers.

"That's an individual business owner's decision," he said.

Only one permit issued in Horry County has been revoked, according to Lowder.

Across the state, there have been no incidents where anyone carrying a concealed weapon has injured anyone improperly using his permit.

Grass Roots officials theorize that people are safer when someone with a concealed weapon is nearby. Many of the shootings restaurants and schools could have been thwarted if people had been armed, they say. Criminals are much more hesitant attack if they think their victim might ha a gun.

They also think businesses open the selves up to robberies and other attacks when the sticker in the window assures

them that no one in the business has a gun.

Kelleher said he also explains to businesses that they may be losing customs because people carrying weapons frequent businesses where they know their guns are welcome.

Ted Gragg, an instructor for the firearm safety class, said if people feel more comfortable with a sticker on their window that's their business.

"That privilege is granted to them under the law," he said.

However, he believes many of the stick went up simply because they were sent them and they looked official.

However, he said, "There is a large ~ and cry from permit holders that these businesses reconsider their position ~ take these signs down and that's probably reasonable thought because it gives a certain degree of protection."

All of the concealed carry supporters believe having legally-armed people around increases their safety. In the 31 states t have concealed carry permits, the crime rate has dropped 22 percent for viol crimes including rape, assault and battery, kidnapping, etc.

Horry County Telephone Removes Signs - Recognizes Rights of CWP Holders

GRSC recognizes Neal and Melissa Seaman for single handedly (well almost) getting the "No Concealed Weapons Allowed" signs taken down at Horry County Telephone Company. (Horry County Telephone is one of the largest telephone co-ops in the country)

Neal and Melissa have been tirelessly working on this project for several weeks now. Employing telephone calls, organizing gun dealers and sporting goods shops, distributing postcards to Horry County GRSC members and customers in local shops, as well as using well written, logical, and to the point letters to HTC Directors, they have obtained a VICTORY!

Below is the text of a letter Neal received today from HTC stating they

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will alter their sign to one allowing lawful concealed carry in HTC offices. To those wanting to know Neal's tips and tactics, I am sure he will gladly share... To all GRSC members living in Horry County who participated in this effort thank you for your assistance!

Again, congratulations and thanks to Neal and Melissa! To those of you who live in or travel through Horry County, how about sending the Seaman's an "attaboy!" Their e-mail address is: freeusa@fi9.com You may contact Neal at: 843-756-5311. He is eager to work on Horry County issues with others in his area.

Addendum: Neal has launched a new project and would like ever GRSC members to join him! Neal wants to send every SC legislator a copy of Dr. John Lott's new book, More Guns, Less

Crime. To get the ball rolling, Neal has sent \$10 to GRSC to be specifically applied to this venture. Neal challenges all GRSC members to do the same. Please consider helping out with this worthwhile project to educate all SC legislators that, in fact, more guns do equal less crime!

(begin text of Horry Telephone Company Response Letter)

HTC On The Line For You Every Day
July 13, 1999

Dear Mr. Seaman:

The Board of Directors of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (HTC) has considered your request to meet with them in regard to HTC's concealed weapons policy. In considering your request, the Board has agreed to modify

our policy and signage to allow those visitors who are either law enforcement officers or are legally licensed to carry concealed handguns to do so on HTC property.

As a result of the policy change, the Board felt that the requested meeting would not be necessary. We will move forward with changing out the signs this week and expect to have the policy fully implemented prior to the end of the month.

We appreciate your dedication to your beliefs and trust this will resolve the matter to your satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,
M. O'Neal Miller, Jr.
Chief Executive-Financial Operations

Postcards, like this one, let merchants know they are losing the business of many people in their community.

Dear Business Owner:

I'll be taking my business elsewhere until you remove, or change, your sign against concealed weapons. I'm a sensible law abiding citizen of good character who has gone to a lot of trouble and expense to legally carry a concealed firearm. I don't like to be discriminated against or be treated as a criminal. I don't think you're ready, or able, to assume the extra responsibility for the safety of me and my family that your sign implies.

Since your sign is actually an *attraction* to criminals, I'll be sure to warn all my friends and family against coming here too. I'll give your name to Grass Roots of South Carolina, Inc. They'll make sure that other honest citizens like me don't break the law by visiting you. You can contact GRSC at P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, SC 28151 for more information and free alternative signs.

Sincerely,

Feminization of gun debate drowns out sober analysis

by Michelle Malkin

WHEN IT COMES to talking about guns, responsible women should adopt Johnson & Johnson's Baby Shampoo pledge: No more tears.



No more mom-in-tennis-shoes proselytizing. No more irrational NRA-bashing. No more maudlin sermons. Alas, the sopping feminization of political debate continues to drown out sober analysis of gun-control laws. In the wake of the Los Angeles-area day care shooting, serious academic research is once again taking a back seat to sensational self-flagellation.

My favorite anti-gun manifesto was published last year in the Seattle Times following the Springfield, Ore. school shooting. The headline: "Where is our indignation at this senseless carnage?" The letter writer, political neophyte Heidi Behrens-Benedict, was quickly anointed the Democratic Party's challenger to GOP Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn. Dunn pummeled Behrens-Benedict in last fall's general election.

"We need gun control," Behrens-Benedict moaned. "Our children are being murdered. We need righteous indignation, directed fury... I urge you to write to your elected officials and require them, as a condition of your vote, to reject the NRA and adopt a national policy on gun control." Behrens-Benedict also bewailed opposition to "modest" measures "such as requiring the sale of trigger locks with each gun sold."

What Behrens-Benedict didn't mention was that the defeat of just such a measure in Washington state in 1997 came at the hands of a whopping 71 percent of voters. Despite the overwhelming rejection of mandatory

trigger locks by progressive voters in Washington state, Congress is once again considering this costly and ineffective proposal.

Behrens-Benedict paints Second Amendment defenders as right-wing gun nuts out of touch with women and estranged from reality. But the numbers speak for themselves: Between 1988 and 1996, gun ownership by women nationwide skyrocketed by over 70 percent. January 1996 data from the state Department of Licensing Firearms Unit show that 18.6 percent of all concealed-handgun permit holders (past and present) in Washington are women. That's 118,728 pistol-packing moms, daughters and grandmas from Seattle to Spokane.

And you can bet your waterproof mascara that they are not all NRA-backed Republicans.

University of Chicago Professor John Lott notes in his recent book, "More Guns, Less Crime" that "almost one in four voters who identify themselves as liberals and almost one in three Democrats own a gun." Among those who own concealed-weapons permits are liberal Hollywood celebrities such as Cybill Shepherd and Bill Cosby; left-leaning media tycoons such as Arthur O. Sulzberger, chairman of the New York Times, and staunch Democratic feminists such as U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein of California.

Gun-control advocates preach that more restrictions on handgun ownership are the key to reducing violent crime. But Lott's exhaustive and groundbreaking analysis of nationwide data demonstrates otherwise. After analyzing FBI crime records from every county in the U.S. over a 19-year period, Lott and a research partner found that the more people who obtained concealed-weapons permits under "shall-issue" laws, the more violent crime declined. Thirty-one states have now passed such laws allowing law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons; Washington's has been on the books since 1961.

The longer such laws are in place in a state, Lott concluded, the more effective they are. In the period studied, for every five years a shall-issue law

was in place, murder rates dropped by at least 15 percent, robberies by 11 percent and rapes by 9 percent. The benefits of concealed-carry laws for women are especially striking. According to Lott's research, one additional woman carrying a concealed handgun reduces the murder rate for women by about three to four times more than one additional man carrying a concealed handgun reduces the murder rate for men.

Lott's work has been met with the usual response: empty, shrieking hysteria. Media hounds immediately lambasted Lott's statistical methods as "flawed" - without ever having read the study. Gun-control advocates refused to debate him in public, then smeared him with false accusations about his research affiliations.

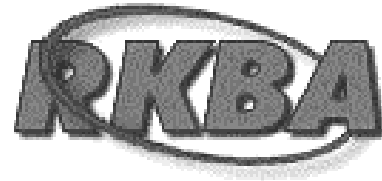
Yet, far from the soap-opera stage of popular debate, Lott's scholarly critics acknowledge that his research is a valuable contribution to the academic literature. Lott has published more than 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals. His book provides a brief primer on statistics and multiple regression analysis. Unlike gun-control ideologues, he responds extensively to opponents' arguments and makes his data available to anyone who asks.

Unfortunately, the chasm between solid academic research and squishy political rhetoric is enormous. Americans have become numb to numbers. In our Oprah-fied culture, overwrought women such as Heidi Behrens-Benedict are deified while accomplished scholars such as John Lott are demonized. The question is no longer "Which policy will save the largest number of lives?" but "Who can shed the most tears?"

Therein lies the real tragedy: Instead of arming the nation's youth with the intellectual tools they need to pursue the truth, we are teaching them to deal with crucial public policy problems by burying their heads at the bottom of a Kleenex tissue box.

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GRSC Legislative Update - Proposed CWP Legislation



Legislative Update - Proposed Legislation for SC Legislature By Rob Butler, J.D.

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-31-210, 23-31-215, 23-31-217, 10-11-320, 16-23-420, 16-23-430, 16-23-465, 51-3-145, AND SECTION 23-31-235, AND TO REPEAL SECTION 23-31-225, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO ISSUANCE OF CONCEALABLE WEAPON PERMITS, SO AS TO PROVIDE ALL LAW ABIDING RESIDENT ADULTS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD AND OLDER CAN OBTAIN A CONCEALABLE WEAPON PERMIT, TO ALLOW IMMEDIATE CONTROL OF A CONCEALABLE WEAPON, TO HONOR CONCEALABLE WEAPON CARRY RIGHTS FROM OTHER STATES, TO REMOVE SOME RESTRICTIONS ON WHERE CONCEALABLE WEAPONS MAY LEGALLY BE CARRIED, AND TO STANDARDIZE SIGNS PROHIBITING CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ON PREMISES.

~~Indicates matter to be stricken from the law.~~

Indicates matter to be added to the law.

Indicates explanatory comments.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Explanation of what Sections 1 & 2 would accomplish:

Adoption of Sections 1 & 2 would allow any law abiding person who moved to SC to obtain a CWP once they were settled in SC. A one year residency is not necessary to protect the public because the new resident would still have to pass a federal background check which includes records from all of the states.

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) held in Shapiro v. Thompson, 394 US 618 (1969), that it was unconstitutional for a state to require a new resident to reside in the state for one year before being eligible for welfare benefits. SCOTUS stated the welfare recipients “were exercising a constitutional right [‘the constitutional right to travel from one state to another . . .’], and any classification which serves to penalize the exercise of that right, unless shown to be necessary to promote a compelling governmental interest, is unconstitutional.”

It is unconstitutional to deny a new resident the right to apply for a CWP. The right to keep and bear arms is also a constitutional right. A new resident filing for a CWP deserves at least the same protection as a new resident filing for welfare.

SECTION 1. Section 23-31-210 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

~~“(1) ‘Resident’ means an individual who is a legal resident of South Carolina for at least twelve months preceding the date on which an application to carry a weapon is submitted under this section or military personnel on permanent change of station orders.”~~

SECTION 2. Section 23-31-215 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(F) The permit application form shall require the applicant to certify that:

- (1) he is not a person prohibited under state law from possessing a weapon;
- (2) he understands the permit is revoked and must be surrendered immediately to SLED if the permit holder becomes a person prohibited under state law from possessing a weapon;
- ~~(3) he has either been is a resident of this State for at least twelve months preceding the date of his application or he is military personnel on permanent change of station orders; and~~
- (4) all information contained in his application is true and correct to the best of his knowledge.”

Explanation of what Section 3 would accomplish:

Adoption of Section 3 would allow a CWP holder to carry their concealable weapon

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within their control, but not necessarily upon their person. This means a person with a CWP could carry a concealable weapon in a fanny pack and then put the fanny pack on the seat beside them while driving, or carry a concealable weapon in a briefcase or backback, or place a concealable weapon into the pocket in the door of a vehicle. Many times it just is not comfortable to carry “in normal wear of clothing,” but access to a concealable weapon is still desired.

SECTION 3. Section 23-31-217 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Nothing in this article shall affect the provisions of Section 16-23-20-, except that a person otherwise legally carrying a concealable weapon in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23, shall be allowed to keep the concealable weapon concealed, within reach and under their custody and control.”

Explanation of what Section 4 would accomplish:

Adoption of Section 4 would provide that any person who was able to carry a concealed weapon in the state they came from could carry a concealed weapon in SC according to SC laws restricting where to carry. Adoption of Section 4 would eliminate the requirement that SLED certify that other state’s laws were as strict as SC law. This would allow more states to honor SC CWP’s because now SLED has to certify that a reciprocal state has CWP requirements at least as strict as SC CWP requirements. Since SC law requires a vision test and most other states do not (other states assume blind people probably will not seek a CWP, but SC wants to be sure of it), reciprocity is denied to all states that do not have their law written to include a vision test. Some states require shorter training classes than SC, so SC denies reciprocity with them, too. By allowing CWP holders from other states to carry here, other states will open their doors to us.

SECTION 4. Section 23-31-215 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

~~“(N) Valid out-of-state permits to carry concealable weapons held by a resident of a reciprocal state must be honored by this State. SLED shall make a determination as to those states which have permit issuance standards equal to or greater than the standards contained in this article and shall maintain and publish a list of those states as the states with which South Carolina has reciprocity. A person who~~

(1) is carrying a valid permit or license issued pursuant to the law of any State and which permits the person to carry a concealable weapon, or

(2) is otherwise entitled to carry a concealable weapon in and pursuant to the law of the State of such person's residence

may carry a concealable weapon in this State with the same restrictions concerning circumstances and locations in which concealable weapons may be carried which apply to the carrying of a concealable weapon by a resident of this State.”

Explanation of what Sections 5 to 10 would accomplish:

Adoption of Sections 5 to 10 would eliminate most of the areas where CWP holders are now prohibited from carrying a concealable weapon. Adoption of Sections 5 to 10 would allow CWP holders to legally carry into:

1. Restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages on premises,
2. Most taxpayer owned or controlled buildings,
3. State parks and hiking trails,
4. Schools,
5. Colleges, and
6. Most anyplace that is not posted against CWP.

CWP holders are not criminals and should not be treated as if they were. No more

GRSC Legislative Update - Proposed CWP Legislation

leaving your concealable weapon in your car and coming back in the dark unarmed. No more being treated as a second class citizen in taxpayer owned or controlled buildings. No more hiking alone without being able to defend yourself. No more leaving your concealable weapon in your car and hoping no one steals it while it is unprotected. The reason you have a CWP is to be able to defend yourself, your family, and others when you are out.

CWP holders actually help to lower crime rates for everyone, not raise them. CWP holders help lower crime rates for everyone, not just themselves. John Lott's research (More Guns, Less Crime) found for every CWP issued, over \$3,000 in damages from crime was saved.

More CWP's mean fewer murders and fewer rapes. Help put a stop to human tragedy, support better CWP laws.

SECTION 5. Section 23-31-215 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

"(M) A permit issued pursuant to this section does not authorize a permit holder to carry a concealable weapon into a:

- ~~(1) police, sheriff, or highway patrol station or any other law enforcement office or facility;~~
- ~~(2) detention facility, prison, or jail or any other correctional facility or office;~~
- ~~(3) courthouse or courtroom;~~
- ~~(4) polling place on election days;~~
- ~~(5) office of or the business meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or special purpose district;~~
- ~~(6) school or college athletic event not related to firearms;~~
- ~~(7) day care facility or pre-school facility;~~
- ~~(8) place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law;~~
- ~~(9) church or other established religious sanctuary;~~
- ~~(10) hospital, medical clinic, doctor's office, or any other facility where medical services or procedures are performed unless expressly authorized by the employer.~~

A person who wilfully violates a provision of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court and have his permit revoked for five years.

Nothing contained herein may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of Sections 10-11-320, 16-23-420, 16-23-430, 16-23-465, 44-23-1080, 44-52-165, ~~50-9-830~~, and 51-3-145."

SECTION 6. Section 10-11-320 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

A. It shall be unlawful for any person or group of persons: (a) to carry or have readily accessible to the person upon the capitol grounds or within the capitol building any firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device; (b) to discharge any firearm or explosive or to use any dangerous weapon or to ignite any incendiary device upon the capitol grounds or within the capitol building; or (c) to transport by any means upon the capitol grounds or within the capitol building any explosive or incendiary device.

B. This section does not apply to a person carrying a concealable weapon in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 and their concealable weapon, but only with respect to the concealable weapon and its ammunition."

SECTION 7. Section 16-23-420 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

"(A) It is unlawful for a person to carry onto any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, other post-secondary institution, or any publicly-owned building a firearm of any kind, without the express permission of the authorities in charge of the premises or property.

(B) It is unlawful for a person to enter the premises or property described in subsection (A) and to display, brandish, or threaten others with a firearm. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to deny a person the right to self defense or the defense of others.

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(C) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(D) This section does not apply to a guard, law enforcement officer, a person carrying a concealable weapon in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23, or member of the armed forces, or student of military science. A married student residing in apartments provided by the private or public school whose presence with a weapon in or around a particular building is authorized by persons legally responsible for the security of the buildings is also exempted from the provisions of this section.

(E) For purposes of this section, the terms 'premises' and 'property' do not include state or locally owned or maintained roads, streets, or rights-of-way thereof, running through or adjacent to premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by a private or public school, college, university, technical college, or other post-secondary institution, which are open full time to public vehicular traffic.”

SECTION 8. Section 16-23-430 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(1) It shall be unlawful for any person, except State, county or municipal law-enforcement officers or personnel authorized by school officials, to carry on his person, while on any elementary or secondary school property, a knife, with a blade over two inches long, a blackjack, a metal pipe or pole, firearms or any other type of weapon, device or object which may be used to inflict bodily injury or death.

(2) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. Any weapon or object used in violation of this section may be confiscated by the law enforcement division making the arrest.

(3) This section does not apply to a person carrying a concealable weapon in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 and their concealable weapon.”

SECTION 9. Section 16-23-465 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“A. In addition to the penalties provided for by Sections 16-11-330 and 16-23-460 and by Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16, a person convicted of carrying a pistol or firearm onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic liquor, beer, or wine for consumption on the premises is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than three years, or both. ~~In addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked.~~

B. This section does not apply to a person carrying a concealable weapon in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 and their concealable weapon.”

SECTION 10. Section 51-30-145 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(G) Possessing any firearm, airgun, explosive, or firework except by duly authorized park personnel, law enforcement officers, or persons using areas specifically designated by the department for use of firearms, air guns, fireworks, or explosives. Licensed hunters may have firearms in their possession during hunting seasons provided that such firearms are unloaded and carried in a case or the trunk of a vehicle except that in designated Game Management areas where hunting is permitted, licensed hunters may use firearms for hunting in the manner authorized by law. This section does not apply to a person carrying a concealable weapon in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 and their concealable weapon, but only with respect to the concealable weapon and its ammunition.”

Explanation of what Section 11 would accomplish:

Adoption of Section 11 would delete the requirement that a CWP holder must declare the fact they are carrying a concealable weapon before entering another person’s residence. The burden would shift to the person in legal possession or control of the property to post against CWP under Section 23-31-220, just as any business is allowed to do. Adopting Section 11 allows everyone to carry on their everyday activities without having to bring up the

GRSC Legislative Update - Proposed CWP Legislation

subject of concealable weapons. There would be only one standard to enforce - either a building is posted, or it is not.

SECTION 11. Section 23-31-225 of the 1976 Code is repealed:

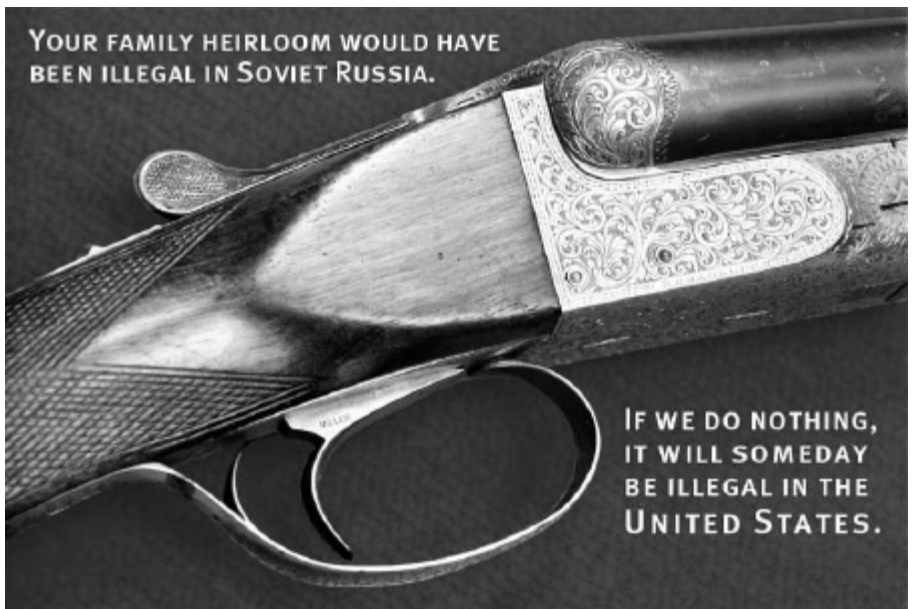
~~“No person who holds a permit issued pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 may carry a concealable weapon into the residence or dwelling place of another person without the express permission of the owner or person in legal control or possession, as appropriate. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court and have his permit revoked for five years.”~~

Explanation of what Section 12 would accomplish:

Adoption of Section 12 would standardize the size, placement, and wording of signs that prohibit concealable weapons on the premises. No more having to search every nook and cranny of the premises to find out if they are posted.

SECTION 12. Section 23-31-235 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any requirement of or allowance for the posting of signs prohibiting the carrying of a concealable weapon upon any premises may **shall only** be satisfied by a sign expressing the prohibition in **both** written language ~~interdict~~ **and** universal sign language. All signs shall be posted on every door into a building where CWP holders are prohibited from carrying a concealable weapon, shall be clearly visible from the outside, shall be eight (8") inches wide by twelve (12") inches tall in size, shall have a fluorescent yellow background color, shall contain the words ‘NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED’ in black uppercase type two (2") inches tall at the bottom of the sign, shall contain a black silhouette of a handgun inside of a fluorescent orange circle seven (7") inches in diameter with a fluorescent orange diagonal line that runs from the lower left to the upper right at a forty-five (45) degree angle from the horizontal and shall be a diameter of the circle, the fluorescent orange line and circle shall be one-half (½") inch wide, and shall be placed no less than forty (40") inches and no more than sixty (60") inches from the bottom of the door. If the premises where concealable weapons are being prohibited does not have doors, then all signs shall be thirty-six (36") inches wide by forty-two (42") inches tall in size, shall have a fluorescent yellow background color, shall contain the words ‘NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED’ in black uppercase type four (4") inches tall at the bottom of the sign, shall contain a black silhouette of a handgun inside of a fluorescent orange circle thirty-four (34") inches in diameter with a fluorescent orange diagonal line that runs from the lower left to the upper right at a forty-five (45) degree angle from the horizontal and shall be a diameter of the circle, the fluorescent orange line and circle shall be two (2") inches wide, shall be placed no less than forty-eight (48") inches and no more than ninety-sixty (96") inches above the ground, and shall be sufficiently numerous to be clearly visible from any point of entry onto the premises.”



SECTION 13. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. (end)

These Merchants Don't Want CWP Permit Holders To Carry Firearms In Their Stores

LIST 10/99 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

Statewide:

Thomas and Howard Cash and Carry-all locations

American Federal Banks All locations

Security Finance, All Locations

BB&T, All Locations

Carolina First, All Locations www.carolinafirst.com

Klig's Kites, All Locations

First Citizens Banks All Midlands Locations

Midlands: Columbia, West Cola.,

Lexington, Irmo

CVI - Cablevision Industries 1125 B Avenue, W. Cola

Hardee's Restaurants Some Midlands Locations

Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores 7467 Woodrow St., Irmo,

SMI Steel 310 New State Rd., Cayce

Taco Bell Restaurants All Midlands Locations,

The Factory Outlets All Midlands Locations

Wendy's Restaurant 1410 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo

Piggly Wiggly Food Stores, 4360 Augusta Rd., Lexington

First Community Bank, 5455 Sunset Blvd., Lexington

Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr., Lexington

Columbia:

BOOZER LUMBER Atlas Rd

Frankie's Fun Park

Pelican Company 919 S. Edisto Ave.

Western Steer Steakhouse, St. Andrews Rd

Crown-Stone Printing Co 819 Main Street

Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd

Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Road

South Carolina Merchants Association 1735 St. Julians Pl.

Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch (& Polo Rd.)

St.Andrews Mult-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd.

Hancock Motor Company 3905 West Beltline Blvd

Bojangles 542 St.Andrews Rd.

Custom Pizza Company 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd.

Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd.

Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd.

Tiger Express #8 418 Piney Grove Rd.

BC&BS of South Carolina I20 & Alpine Rd.

State Farm Insurance Claims I20 & Bush River Rd.

Gaz-Bah Mini Shops 2923 W. Beltline Blvd.

Carolina Convenience Amoco and Citgo Stations 209 Stoneridge Dr.

Richland Mall

National Tax Svc 3707 Main St

Charleston:

Piggly Wiggly Harborview Rd

Hay Tire Company, Inc. 444 Savannah Hwy

James Island Cleaners 1739 Maybank Hwy

Charleston Area Federal Credit Union

Charleston Steel & Metal

Belks Northwood Mall www.belk.com

First Federal of Charleston, All Locations

CPM Federal Credit Union

Camden:

Hot Spot Convenience Store

Carolina Tire 1110 Broad Street 803 432-7969

Systems Services Group 2512 Broad Street (803) 424-1600

Sumter:

Boykin Air Conditioning Services 845 S Guignard Dr

Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 South

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E. Calhoun Street 775-1231

GTE Wireless 317 Wesmark Blvd. (803) 469-2345

Tri Star Storage II / Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard

Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 North Main Street

Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261

Regional Acceptance Corp., 678 Bultman Dr.

H & S Wholesale Inc. 200 S. Harvin St.

Spee Dee Cash 1171 Broad St.

Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N. Main St.

Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd., Sumter 29150

Save Mart 378A Manning Avenue

SAFE Federal Credit Unions 180 Wesmark Blvd. Exten.

Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St.

Gerry's & Things 130 W. Liberty St.

Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E. Liberty St.

CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd.

Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Pro-Glo Paint and Body Shop 2085 Jefferson Road

Blythewood:

Blythewood Pharmacy, 420-B McNulty Road

Plum's Ice Cream Factory, Wilson Rd.

JR's United Convenience, 10447 Wilson Rd.

Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1, Highway 21,

Vision Quest Video of Blythewood, 420-D McNulty Road

Blythewood IGA

Blythewood McDonalds, 250 Blythewood Road

Greenville:

Sam's Club, 2519 Laurens Rd.

Georgetown:

Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St.

Prince George Framing and Gallery 805 Front Street

Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front Street

Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies 929 Front Street

Thomas Cafe, 703 Front Street

Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket Street

Georgetown Art Gallery Inc. 732 Front Street

Tomlinson's Dept. Store 806 Front Street

Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, and Greer 604 Front Street

Edward Jones Investments 936 Front Street

Batesburg/Leesville:

Owner/Agent State Farm 605 W. Church St.

Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law Abiding Citizens please notify GRSC for removal from this list.

This list maintained by GRSC volunteers. Please report corrections to:

Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Email irish@logicsouth.com

These Merchants Don't Want CWP Permit Holders To Carry Firearms In Their Stores

LIST 10/99 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

Greenwood:

Greenwood Bank & Trust

Burger King

Barnwell:

Rainbow Gas Garden Dunbarton Blvd

Seneca:

Hometown Food Store N. Walnut St

Carquest Auto Parts 507 N. First St.

Bishopville:

Logan's Appliance Center, 139 N. Main St.

R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency 204 N. Main St.

Walterboro:

Wholesale Bedding Outlet 111 Eddie Chasteen Dr

Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy.

Carpet Country

Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy.

Texemarts 3 locations Owned by Rhodes Oil, 305 Moore St.

Clearvision Optical 501A, Bells Hwy.

Piggy Wiggy 251A Bells Hwy.

Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy.

Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy.

Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy.

Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy.

Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N. Jefferies Blvd.

Washington Street Café' 242 Washington St.

S.C. Electric and Gas - All Locations

Costal Electric Co-operative 2269 Jefferies Hwy.

Cannady Agency 305 E. Washington St

Allied Department Store 205 E. Washington St

Murrells Inlet:

Old House Memories Antiques

Inlet Square Mall 10125 HWY 17 By-Pass,

Marion:

H&R Block Main St

Piggy Wiggy #3 E Godbold St

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

Pawley's Island:

Tuesday Morning 364 Highway 17 North

Ridgeway:

Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch

Saluda:

Caper House 401 N. Main St.

Darlington:

Henry's Pantry 438 N. Main St.

Florence:

Piggly Wiggly Florence Mall

Summerville:

Maxway Boon Hill Rd

The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

Belks 1301 N. Main St.

Pickens:

Hot Spot Convenience Store

Aiken:

McDonalds Pine Log, and Whiskey Rd

Captain "D'S" Whiskey Rd

Aiken Mall 2441 Whiskey Rd

Myrtle Beach:

Dixie Discount Beverage S. Kings HWY

Time Warner Cable 1901 Oak St.

Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 West First Street

Easley:

Hot Spot Convenience Store

Conway:

Rods Pawn & Jewelry Hwy 554

Moncks Corner SC:

Central True Value Hardware 502 E. Main St

Angler's Mini Mart Hwy 52 N.

Mullins:

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

Anderson:

Perpetual Bank

To have a merchant added to this list, please provide complete contact information; which includes Business name, mailing address, city, zipcode, and the name of the person who can make the decision to remove the sign.



We have noticed your sign, and are going to respect your wishes by shopping elsewhere.

Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law Abiding Citizens please notify GRSC for removal from this list.

This list maintained by GRSC volunteers. Please report corrections to:
Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151
Email irish@logicsouth.com

Welcome Back!

The Following Merchants Have REMOVED Signs Which Discourage Law Abiding CWP Holders from Entering Their Stores!

*Piggy Wiggly of Chesterfield
Gloriosa Florists
Hiller Hardware
Ace Parker Tires of Sumter
Camden Hot Spot Convenience
Office Max - All Locations
Special Effects Hair Salon
System Plus Computers
Blythewood Feed and Hardware
McDuffie's Home Furnishings
Lowe's Hardware - All Locations
Rush's Restaurants
McCall's Supply
Little Pigs Barbecue
Chamber of Commerce Walterboro
Discount Auto Parts
Domino's Pizza on Two Notch
Cost Cutter's Barber Shop
Dixie Furniture in Walterboro
Walterboro Chamber of Commerce
Burger King Walterboro*

*Lee's Grocery
Spann's Store
Becknell Cleaners
Camden Gas and Oil
Granger in Columbia
Food Lion of Ravenel
Ed's Paint Center
Jim Hall's Auto Service
Food Chief Store #22
Crosby Herndon Music
Thyme Out Exxon
If It's Paper
Best Stop Stores (pending)
Denny's Restaurants
Warshaws Mens Shop
Perkin's Family Restaurant
Greenville Carmike Cinemas
Burlington Coat Factory
Collins Jewelry
Wal-Mart #2214 in Columbia*

GRSC's Current Alternative Signs:

**No Firearms Permitted
Except by
Law Enforcement
and those
Legally Licensed to Carry
Concealed Handguns**

**NO ILLEGAL
WEAPONS**

GRSC Alternative Signs are 4"X7", Red on White Background, and available from:

**GRSC
P.O. Box 1181
Sumter, SC 29151**

DEMOCRATS SUE PENCIL MANUFACTURERS

Found on the Bogus News Network

For the past thirty years America's public schools have been producing students who are increasingly less educated. Democratic politicians across the country feel that pencil manufacturers are the ones responsible for creating this education crisis and are filing lawsuits against them.

One of the cities suing the pencil industry is Oakland, California. Said one Democratic City Councilwoman in Oakland, "It is an undisputed fact that 99% of all American public school students use pencils on a daily basis. These pencils are faulty because they allow students to spell words incorrectly, as well as commit grammatical and mathematical errors. It is time that pencil manufacturers be held accountable for their role in producing inferior students."

The City of Atlanta is also suing pencil manufacturers. The Mayor of Atlanta told BNN, "The pencil makers currently have technology available to put 'Student Safety Devices' on their products. But they refuse to do it. These 'Student Safety Devices' would prevent students from committing academic errors and help them

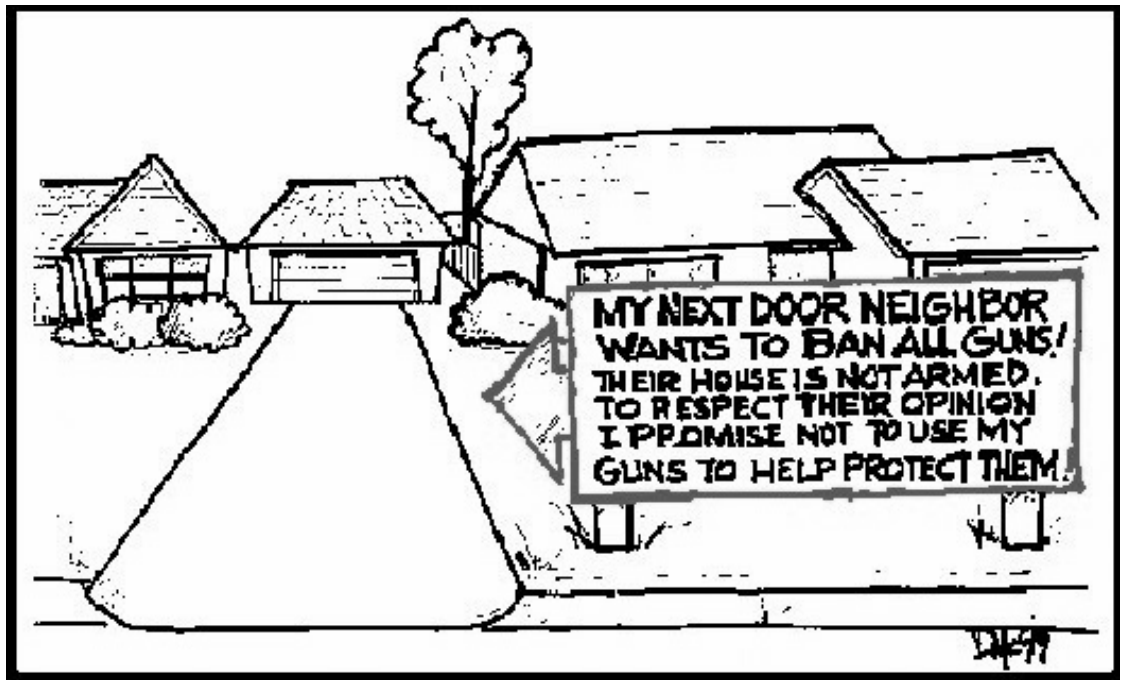
to be better pupils. Our lawsuit is designed to send a message to pencil producers that we will no longer allow them to victimize the children in our school district."

Pencil manufacturers, however, claim that their products do not cause students to commit academic errors. Said Lawrence McDowell of the Sanford Pencil Company, "A pencil is an inanimate object. It is a tool which a student uses at his or her ability level. In the hands of an intelligent and educated student it can be used for producing excellent academic work. In the hands of a lazy

our students perform better in school. But it is obvious that all they care about is their profit margin."

While the lawsuits against the pencil manufacturers move forward, Democrats on Capital Hill are planning to introduce 'Pencil Control Legislation' that would require every pencil to have a 'Student Safety Device' installed. Republicans, who have traditionally sided with the National Pencil Association are showing signs that they may cave to public pressure and vote with Democrats on this bill.

More on this story as it unfolds.



student, who watches nine hours of television a day, a pencil is used to produce inferior academic work. The pencil is not responsible for creating either the excellent work or the inferior work."

The Mayor of Atlanta disagrees with McDowell. Said the Mayor, "That defense is straight out of the National Pencil Association (NPA) handbook. We are trying to do something that will help

BNN Disclaimer: This story is totally false not one shred of it is true! It was created for entertainment purposes ONLY. Any resemblance to the truth is purely coincidental.

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Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151

www.scfirearms.org

_____ 1-year membership: \$15.00 (includes newsletters and mailings, alerts, e-mail updates)

_____ Please send me the VHS Videotape on SC Laws of Self-Defense \$15.95 includes shipping

_____ I'd like #_____ wallet cards. (Please send donation to defray our printing and postage.)

_____ I am a merchant requesting more information and GRSC Alternative Signs.

_____ Include me in your legislative alerts registry. I want to help make some change!

_____ I am a pro-gun legislator. Add me to your notification list to keep current on CWP issues.

Name: _____ **For Alerts: Join Our Fax and E-Mail List!**

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Fax: _____

South Carolina Legislative District: _____

Make Checks Payable to GRSC

Guns Save Lives!