

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Representatives Jesse Kremer

DATE: Monday, February 19

RE: Co-sponsorship of the Private School Carry Act: LRB-0044/1, relating to possession of a firearm by a licensee on the grounds of a school and providing a penalty.

DEADLINE: Friday, February 23 at 12:00 p.m.

The Private School Carry Act seeks to address a massive public safety issue in our schools - one that deals with evil and cowardly individuals bent on harming our children. No amount of video surveillance, locked key FOB access doors OR gun control will EVER prevent a shooting at a school. Allowing local schools, school boards and parents the ability to determine how they will defend against a crazed madman through the use of legally armed teachers or parents IS, however, a deterrent.

Under current Wisconsin law, it is prohibited to carry firearms on the grounds of schools or in school buildings as gun free-zones. In order to comply with the law, parents must disarm prior to leaving home or a vehicle. The unfortunate reality is that gun-free zones merely serve to concentrate populations of vulnerable targets on school grounds and surrounding areas. Students attending school should not be denied a safe learning environment and teachers, administrators, or parents should not be denied their Second Amendment right to carry a weapon for self-defense and protection of their children or classroom.

The Private School Carry Act simply establishes a safety pilot program for private, parochial, or tribal schools in Wisconsin that allows individuals that are licensed to carry a concealed weapon to possess a firearm in or on the grounds of that private, parochial, or tribal school. In addition, that school may adopt a policy to allow the carry of a concealed weapon within a building on school grounds. Should a private, parochial, or tribal school not allow licensees to carry or possess firearms in a building on its grounds, an individual licensee who knowingly violates that rule is guilty of a Class B forfeiture. We hope this program will gain popularity for expansion into all public schools statewide.

Further, this bill adjusts the current Class I felony charge to those found guilty of illegally possessing a firearm in or on the grounds of a public school to a Class B forfeiture. This will finally end the targeting of parents dropping off or picking up their children at school who are law abiding citizens that happen to still be carrying a licensed and otherwise legal firearm.

It is time to STOP advertising our schools as Gun Free School Zones and go the way that Ohio did after Sandy Hook by publicly advertising that school personnel MAY, and WILL, shoot back in Wisconsin. It is quite apparent if one reads the Secret Service study on mass shootings to realize that yes, this would be a deterrent. Legislators were sent to Madison to do a job, and we must act to protect and empower the public and our constituents to ensure the safety of our children.

To be added on as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please reply to this email or contact Nik in Rep. Kremer's office at 6-9175 by **12:00pm on Friday, February 23rd**.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, a person who has a license to carry a concealed weapon may possess a firearm in or on the grounds of a parochial, private, or tribal school and, if the school adopts a policy, in a building on the school grounds. If the school does not adopt a policy allowing licensees to possess a firearm in a building on its grounds, a licensee who knowingly possesses a firearm in such a building is guilty of a Class B forfeiture. In addition, under this bill, if a licensee illegally possesses a firearm in or on the grounds of a public school, he or she is guilty of a Class B forfeiture. Under current law, a person who illegally possesses a firearm on the grounds of any school is guilty of a Class I felony.