

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM



TO: All Legislature
FROM: Senators David Craig, Roger Roth, Van Wanggaard, Duey Stroebel, Steve Nass, Devin LeMahieu, and André Jacque
Representatives Gae Magnafici and Mary Felzkowski
RE: Co-Sponsorship of [LRB-5695/1](#) re: **Protecting Places of Worship Act**
DATE: Wednesday, February 11th

SHORT DEADLINE: Thursday, February 13th at NOON

Given the recent tragedies involving evil-doers specifically targeting of places of worship, we are introducing legislation to affirmatively allow concealed carry permit holders to protect themselves and others in places of worship. Indiana and Texas recently changed their laws to specifically allow for parishioners to carry in places of worship, and with events surrounding the Texas church shooting and the incredible, life-saving response from an armed citizen, it is an important reminder that these types of meaningful reforms lead to positive outcomes.

With the diverse array of faiths, methods, and places of worship, the legislation would apply to all places of worship including those within a school zone. Under current state law, worshippers in places of worship within a school zone are prohibited from exercising the right to protect themselves that other worshippers have. **This bill would allow worshippers to decide how best to protect themselves from those who intend to do them harm – in keeping with their constitutional right of free exercise.**

Additionally, [this bill](#) preserves the private property rights of places of worship by allowing owners to post signs prohibiting carry should they choose to do so. An individual carrying on property posted with signage prohibiting carry is subject same to the penalties under current law.

Racine Journal Times editorial board: [Taking steps for safety in our houses of worship](#)

Should you wish to be added on as a co-sponsor of the **Protecting Places of Worship Act**, please reply to this email by NOON on Wednesday, February 13, 2020. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Adam Gibbs in Senator Craig's office (6-5400).

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill specifies that a person who has a license to carry a concealed weapon may possess a firearm in a place of worship, including on school grounds, unless the place of worship posts its grounds or building as provided in the trespassing laws.