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May 12, 2011

TO: Senate Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce and Government Operations Committee  
Assembly Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee

FR: Ken Taylor, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to SB 90, SB 93 and AB 126 concealed weapon carry legislation

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) is the only multi-children's issues advocacy organization in the state. We provide research and policy recommendations on child welfare, health care, juvenile justice, early care and education and the state budget. WCCF's mission is to ensure that all children grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.

WCCF has many concerns about these bills, but we will limit this memo to those we feel are most likely to place children at risk:

- Allows loaded guns in **child care centers**, churches, parks, hospitals, playgrounds, domestic violence shelters, grocery stores, Lambeau Field, mental health facilities, school zones, state parks and fisheries, and just about all other public places. **Child care group center licensing rules prohibit firearms on the premises, and family child care licensing and certification rules require that firearms must be kept in locked storage and inaccessible to children. We do not want those rules overridden by this statute.**
- Does not require that citizens carrying loaded guns in public have any training or experience with guns. It does, however, require that retired law enforcement officers train annually and that they only carry the gun with which they have trained.
- Requires the Wisconsin Department of Justice to issue a license to any applicant who is not prohibited by law from possessing a firearm. People convicted of violent misdemeanors, stalking, battery and other crimes could qualify for a permit.

Most states require training and prohibit gun carrying in sensitive places. Many states have far more restrictions on who can carry and under what circumstances. We respectfully ask that you vote to maintain Wisconsin's 130-old concealed carry law by voting against these bills. If these bills are passed, we believe that children's health and safety will be placed at increased risk.