

## Unpermitted conceal carry actually reduces violent crime

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One would think, with all the interest on "fake news stories" these days, Mr. Bill Kingston of New Castle would have been more careful in his Jan. 9 letter. He asserted in his "No reason to change New Hampshire gun laws" letter that "We do know that those states which allow unpermitted concealed carry suffer significantly more gun homicides." I would love to have him provide some proof for that usual false Brady Handgun Control propaganda. According to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence only Arizona, Wyoming, Vermont and Alaska allow carrying concealed weapons without a permit while all 50 states have provisions for carrying weapons concealed. In 46 states a permit is required, and nine of these have laws that give the state wide discretion to deny permits. I can't speak for Arizona or Wyoming but anyone watching the news knows Vermont has far fewer shootings than even New Hampshire. Alaska only had open carry when I left there but I seem to remember most of the shootings were done by west coasters who had arrived at "the end of the trail" up north. Similar to the Vermonter's claim of New Yorker's driving to Vermont to commit crimes or Massachusetts criminals coming here to do the same.

A quick internet check showed "the nine states that have "may issue" laws reserved the right to deny permits for a number of reasons ranging from no justification to carry a concealed weapon to lack of good character, notes the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. The 37 states that have "shall issue" laws require a concealed carry permit to be issued to most applicants; in 17 of these states no discretion is allowed in granting a permit, while in 20 states a narrow amount of latitude is given to the issuing authority. Most states that allow concealed carry do restrict gun possession in places such as schools, public events, hospitals and bars". The so-called "gun free zones" so favored by mass murderers these days.

"In eight of the states that have a "may issue" restriction, sufficient need or purpose for carrying must be given, explains the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Three states that operate under "shall issue" guidelines also include this requirement. Individuals in 12 states must demonstrate good character to receive a permit. The issuing agencies in 16 states are allowed to deny permits to anyone believed to be dangerous. More than half the states require some form of training".

According to the Cato Institute states allowing registered citizens to carry concealed weapons have lower crime rates than those that don't. Contrary to Mr. Kingston information the 37 states that have "shall issue" laws allowing private citizens to carry concealed handguns have, on average, a 24 percent lower violent crime rate, 19 percent lower murder rate and a 39 percent

lower robbery rate than states forbidding concealed weapons. In fact, the nine states with the lowest violent crime rates are all right-to-carry states. Remarkably, guns are used for self-defense more than 2 million times a year, three to five times the estimated number of violent crimes committed with guns. Strange we never hear or read about them unless we subscribe to the American Rifleman magazine or read it on the news stand. The "Armed Citizen" column in the first few pages of each issue lists a sampling from around the states of those who successfully defended themselves and their loved ones from armed intruders and attackers that was somehow overlooked by the media. Common people protecting themselves with firearms must not make all the politically correct news that's fit to print these days.

In the most recent 2010 edition of economist John Lott's book, "More Guns Less Crime," Lott concludes that "allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns reduces violent crimes, and the reductions coincide very closely with the number of concealed-handgun permits issued." (p. 20) Lott writes that the result of his research "clearly imply that nondiscretionary [concealed carry] laws coincide with fewer murders, aggravated assaults, and rapes" (p. 57). He contends that "when state concealed-handgun laws went into effect in a county, murders fell by about 8 percent, rapes fell by 5 percent, and aggravated assaults fell by 7 percent" (p. 59).

More directly related to the Newtown incident, Lott co-wrote a 1999 study that concluded, "Deaths and injuries from mass public shootings fall dramatically after right-to-carry concealed handgun laws are enacted. Between 1977 and 1995, the average death rate from mass shootings plummeted by up to 91 percent after such laws went into effect, and injuries dropped by over 80 percent."

Those wishing more fact and less opinion on this important matter are urged to visit:  
<http://www.factcheck.org/2012/12/gun-rhetoric-vs-gun-facts/>