



Testimony opposing Assembly Bill 609
Submitted to the Assembly Committee on State Affairs
On behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians

January 7, 2026

Chairman Swearingen and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP)-Wisconsin Chapter, we are writing to oppose Wisconsin AB 609, a bill relating to permitless concealed carry of firearms.

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is the largest medical specialty organization in the world, representing 161,000 internal medicine specialists. In Wisconsin, our ACP chapter represents over 2,000 members that have the privilege of caring for Wisconsin residents. Today we come to advocate for policies that protect the health, lives, and wellbeing of our patients.

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is deeply concerned about the toll of firearm injury on the health of Americans. The ACP policy statement “Reducing Firearm Injuries and Deaths in the United States”¹ reflects our concern about not only the alarming number of mass shootings in the United States but also the daily toll of firearm violence in neighborhoods, homes, and workplaces. As part of that statement, the ACP recommends:

States that decide to permit concealed carry in their jurisdictions should at a minimum require, as a condition of obtaining a permit, training in appropriate handling and storage of firearms in their homes, automobiles, workplaces, and on their person to reduce the risk of unintentional deaths or injuries.

As the Committee is aware, in 2011 Wisconsin legalized concealed carrying of guns in public with a concealed carry license. The permitting process has appropriately required firearm safety training and withheld permits from individuals who would place a high risk to our community through concealed carry, including those convicted of domestic violence or with felony convictions. Permit requirements work. In 2024 alone, 2,000 concealed carry permits were denied, and 1,000 more revoked, because the applicant could not pass a background check or had violated state or federal laws.⁴

Wisconsin AB 609 would remove safeguards from the concealed carry process, increasing firearm risks for Wisconsin residents. These risks are not theoretical; research shows that other states that weakened their concealed carry permitting requirements had a 9.5% increase in gun assaults and a 29% higher rate of firearm workplace homicides.²

Permitted concealed carry is a law grounded in shared values and responsible firearm ownership. A Marquette Law School poll from 2022 showed that 72% of Americans oppose permitless concealed carry.³

For the health and wellbeing of the patients and communities we care for, the Wisconsin chapter of the American College of Physicians opposes Wisconsin AB 609 and encourages the ongoing process of promoting responsible and safe firearm ownership through a permitting process for concealed carry of firearms.

Sincerely,

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Siobhan Wilson, M.D., Ph.D.
Health and Public Policy Committee
American College of Physicians, Wisconsin Chapter

1. Butkus, R, Doherty R and Bornstein, S. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2018;169:704-707.
<https://doi.org/10.7326/M18-1530>

2. Doucette, M, McCourt, A, et al. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 2023;192: 342–355,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwac160>

3. <https://law.marquette.edu/facultyblog/2022/06/state-gun-laws-and-public-opinion/>

4. Department of Justice Concealed Carry Annual Report – 175.60(19) January 1 – December 31, 2024:
https://www.wisdoj.gov/Law%20Enforcement%20Services/2024_Annual_CCW_Statistical_Report_%20-%20Final.pdf