

**Granite**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Police Department**  
801-481-7122

March 13, 2013

Governor Gary Herbert  
350 North State Street, Suite 200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Governor Herbert,

Granite School District Police Department stands with the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, and the Law Enforcement Legislative Committee in opposition to HB 76 – *Concealed Weapon Carry Amendment*.

I encourage you to veto HB 76. It will not make it safer for my officers to perform their duties. In fact, I believe it will make police officers less safe.

HB 76 represents a dramatic change in Utah's concealed carry permitting process that has been fair for the public, public safety, and concealed carry permit holders.

Additionally, the reasons for my opposition to the proposal include the following:

- In order to qualify for a concealed firearm permit under Utah Code Ann. 53-5-704 & (3) a person must be screened to see that the person has not been convicted of:
  - A misdemeanor crime of violence other than domestic violence;
  - An offense involving the use of alcohol; or
  - A misdemeanor offense involving moral turpitude.
- Additionally a person may be disqualified from a permit for behavior demonstrating a danger to himself or others by a past pattern of behavior involving unlawful violence, threats of unlawful violence, or misdemeanor violations of state weapons laws.
- HB 76, however, would allow any person over age 21 to carry a concealed firearm regardless of any history of those convictions or behaviors.

Current law allows a person with a concealed firearm permit to carry a loaded firearm concealed or openly. A person who does not possess a concealed firearm permit may openly carry an unloaded firearm. If HB 76 is not vetoed, any person who is 21 years of age or older who may lawfully possess a dangerous weapon may carry a loaded firearm openly or concealed.

The challenges are exacerbated for my officers as we police schools. The existing open-carry law is problematic when armed civilians choose to carry their weapons into schools, especially elementary schools. We can manage when citizens, with concealed carry permits and appropriate background checks, carry concealed in the schools, however, opening it up to just about anyone as HB76 does is alarming. I feel strongly that there should be no open carry in schools whatsoever. It alarms the students and staff. The students are not experienced enough to tell the difference between a good person with a gun and a bad person. Both upset them thus disrupting the function of the school.

Respectfully,

**RM Johnson**

Chief of Police