

## HB 19-1049 Concerning Allowing Concealed Handgun Permit Holders to Carry Concealed Handguns on School Grounds

**Testimony in support of the bill by Keith Emerson, speaking as an individual, January 24, 2019**

Among the current requirements to qualify for a concealed carry permit in Colorado are:<sup>7</sup>

1. You are 21 years old or older.
2. You are not ineligible to possess a rearm pursuant to state or federal law.
3. You do not chronically and habitually use alcoholic beverages to the point where you are impaired.
4. You are not an unlawful user of or addicted to a controlled substance.
5. You are not subject to a criminal or civil restraining order.

Who are concealed carry permit holders?

1. In Colorado approximately 1 in 9 adults have a concealed weapon permit
2. Nationally in 2017 there were over 16,000,000 permit holders. In 2016 36% of the 15,000,000 plus permit holders were women based on 14 states that broke out permits by gender.<sup>8</sup> There are also many minorities represented in that 16,000,000 law-abiding permit holders.
3. How law abiding? A 2016 study<sup>9</sup> by John Lott titled "Concealed Carry Permit Holders Across the United States: 2016" looked at Florida and Texas and found that police officers were 37 times more law abiding than the general population. The study also found that concealed carry permit holders were 6 times more law abiding than the police.<sup>10</sup>

Concealed carry permit holders have stopped crimes and mass shootings. Here are a few references but the list goes on.

1. Colorado, 2007: New Life Church, Colorado Springs
2. Florida: <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/a-good-guy-with-a-gun-has-saved-many-lives-in-florida-something-the-media-rarely-report>
3. Chicago: <https://crimeresearch.org/2016/09/uber-driver-in-chicago-stops-mass-public-shooting/>

So why do concealed carry permit holders have to disarm themselves in their cars before getting out of the vehicle on K-12 school property? Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Keith Emerson, Denver, Colorado

<sup>7</sup> <https://coag.gov/resources/frequently-asked-questions/conceal-and-carry-permits-frequently-asked-questions>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/concealed-gun-permits-hit-record-16-million-50-rate-in-pa-county>

<sup>9</sup> [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2814691](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2814691)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dailywire.com/news/8255/report-concealed-carry-permit-holders-are-most-law-abiding>