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## LEGISLATURE: Bill too dangerous

The first and foremost duty of government is to protect its people.

And that's why state lawmakers should vote down a bill that would give people a right to keep firearms in their cars, while parked on company premises, even if the employer objects.

Occasionally, there is a job-site shooting or threat.

Four years ago, for example, a fired city worker carried a loaded shotgun into Jacksonville's City Hall Annex and pointed it at his former boss. Fortunately, some alert city workers wrestled him to the ground. That was unusual. Even if they feel like shooting the boss, most enraged workers probably "cool off" in the time it takes them to drive home and retrieve a gun.

But if the gun is in a car, just a few steps away in a company parking lot, there isn't much time to cool off. If an employer doesn't want to allow guns on his property, out of fear for the safety of his employees, his wishes should be respected.

State Rep. Dennis Baxley of Ocala, the sponsor, told The Associated Press that businesses shouldn't object since his bill would grant them legal immunity for any "incident" involving the guns on their property.

But, by adding that provision, Baxley tacitly admits he knows people could get hurt - maybe even killed - because of his bill but he's determined to get it passed into law, anyway.

That's pretty callous.