



FLORIDIANS AGAINST  
WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

*Guns at work. It's bad news waiting to happen.*

## **GUNS AT WORK EQUAL DEADLY WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

Senate Bill 2356 and House Bill 1417 are bills supported by the gun lobby to keep property owners from prohibiting guns in the vehicles of **any customers, employees, or invitees**, provided only that the gun is “out of sight.”

Furthermore, employers are prohibited from taking action if someone mentions that he or she is in possession of a firearm on the property, and are not allowed to ask.

This is dangerous legislation that will decrease the safety of everyone on the premises — customers and employees alike — and significantly increase the likelihood of gun-related violence at Florida’s workplaces.

Murder is the leading cause of injury-related death for women in the workplace, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

<http://www.bradycampaign.org/action/workplace>.

Preliminary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ 2005 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) show 439 workplace homicides by shooting nationwide in the year 2005. <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cftb0206.pdf>

Guns in parking lots will mean a lot more guns stolen from parking lots, and all of those guns will likely be subsequently be used in crime in communities. In 2002, research by the *Orlando Sentinel* found that 193 of 680 guns reported stolen in Orange County — 28 percent — were taken from parked cars.

Workplaces where guns were permitted were about five times as likely to experience a homicide as those where all weapons were prohibited, according



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to a study by the University of North Carolina's Department of Epidemiology and the Injury Prevention Research Center.

<http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/95/5/830>

Research in the American Journal of Public Health found in 2005 that American workers who take weapons with them to work are three to seven times as likely to be murdered at work than those who work at places that prohibit weapons.

Even limiting the policy to licensees is no guarantee. A January 2007 *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* inquiry of Florida's current and former concealed weapons' licensees found more than 11,322 of 443,425 had their licenses suspended or revoked for crimes ranging from child molestation to murder.

Floridians have already suffered tragedy as a result of those who bring firearms at work:

- On April 2, a charter bus driver dissatisfied with his co-worker's driving shot and killed him after they took a Weston middle school band to a competition in Atlanta.
- On March 9 of this year, a Miami man used a semi-automatic handgun to shoot his ex-girlfriend at her office, leaving her in critical condition.
- On July 23, 2001, a Palm Beach Gardens construction worker walked to his truck and pulled out an AK-47 machine gun, which he used to shoot and kill



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two co-workers. Police recovered more than 80 live rounds of ammunition from his truck.

- On New Year's Eve of 1999, a Tampa hotel worker opened fire outside of the Radisson hotel where he worked, killing five and wounding three people.