



Government Affairs & Public Policy



ASIS International Position Paper: Opposition to State Laws Permitting Guns on Workplace Premises

- Oklahoma, Kansas, Minnesota, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Utah, Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Texas and Connecticut have enacted laws limiting employers' rights to keep firearms off their property. Generally, these laws prohibit employers from establishing, maintaining or enforcing any policy or rule that prohibits individuals who are not convicted felons from transporting or storing concealed handguns in locked vehicles in parking lots, parking garages or other assigned parking areas. Other states are considering similar laws, and the National Rifle Association (NRA) actively supports their enactment.
- ASIS International, the preeminent association of security professionals worldwide, opposes these laws. Property owners ought not to be denied the right to decide whether weapons may be brought onto their premises. For any state to do so is an infringement of basic private property rights. It is a tactic unsuited to a democracy.
- Beyond property rights, employers have a right—in fact an obligation under law—to provide a safe and secure workplace. They and their security managers are the persons best qualified to decide whether or not the presence of loaded firearms on their premises constitutes a threat to employees, customers and visitors. They should not be prohibited by law from making such a decision.
- Workplace violence is a serious concern for security professionals. Surveys over a period of many years have shown it to be their greatest concern. Under these state laws, guards finding weapons as part of a search for entry to a facility would be required to let the guns and the bearer into the facility's parking areas.
- The issue also bears on homeland security. Laws allowing employees and visitors to bring weapons onto work sites—chemical plants, refineries, power stations, transportation facilities and the like—are counter to the critical infrastructure protection efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement and corporate security. These laws offer potential terrorists and other criminals the means to legally bring their tools to the target.
- ASIS is not an organization of anti-gun activists. Its members are responsible for protection of life and property in workplaces across America. Many members have served in law enforcement or the military and are supporters of 2nd Amendment rights. But these security professionals understand as well as anyone why an employer may want to have a policy to exclude weapons from their privately-owned workplace premises.
- ASIS will continue to encourage chief security officers at America's corporations to organize and speak out in opposition to these laws and to urge state legislatures to overturn or reject them.

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