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## CCW from page A1

Michigan's law officers, who often encounter citizens under adversarial conditions.  
"People get enraged, and it puts our officers at risk," Dwyer said.  
Dwyer is also concerned that CCW permit owners will not receive enough training. "Eight

**'People get enraged and it puts our officers at risk.'**

Bill Dwyer  
—Hills Police Chief

hours of training is inadequate." He explained that law enforcement officers must update their certification at the police range twice a year.

Richard Dillard, Wayne County Chapter chair of the Michigan Coalition of Responsible Gun Owners, disagrees with Dwyer. "I think he is being intellectually dishonest about the issue."

Dillard said it is unlikely that unintentional shootings will occur.

"There is something called the law of improbability — the odds are 10 to the 31st power that this will happen."

"In the 31 other states that have passed CCW laws there has been a precipitous reduction in violent crime," Dillard said. He added, "The economic benefits of the CCW are in the billions."

Dillard said Michigan stands to save \$6.2 billion through a reduction in crime, medical costs and costs to prosecute criminals. He is not concerned about individuals making false statements to get a CCW permit. "If you are falsifying a document there are pretty severe penalties."

"The bottom line is that none of these prophecies of doom have come true — they are operating on a premise of fear," he said.

"What the chief is concerned about just isn't going to happen," Dillard said. "I would not be advocating for this law if I didn't think it would reduce crime."

According to Dwyer, the number of persons in the state who legally carry concealed weapons will skyrocket from 20,000 cur-

rently to an estimated 200,000 under the new legislation.

Dangers of the new law include allowing weapons to be carried in public places including automobiles, parks, restaurants, stores and movie theaters.

Dwyer said, "Mentally ill persons will have no difficulty

**'In the 31 other states...there has been a precipitous reduction in violent crime.'**

Richard Dillard  
—Michigan Coalition of Responsible Gun Owners

obtaining concealed weapons permits, unless they voluntarily disclose their illness on the application."

There currently exists no central registry of persons diagnosed as mentally ill in the state to be checked by law enforcement agencies conducting eligibility investigations.

The screening process to iden-

tify person who should be excluded allows only 30 days to conduct an eligibility investigation after receipt of fingerprint clearance. Most other states require 60 to 90 days.

MACP supported the referendum effort by People Who Care About Kids to allow Michigan voters to determine if the CCW law should be adopted.

Aldo Vagnozzi, who headed up the group's Farmington/Farmington Hills petition drive, said, "I think the Supreme Court decision was a travesty and takes huge citizen rights out of the Constitution."

"This is exactly what our organization feared would happen — that thousands would apply and under the law they must be given a permit."

Over 5,000 people in Farmington and Farmington Hills signed the petition.

Despite the controversy over the issue, it will take a number of months before any new CCW permits will be issued.

"You won't see one of these permits issued for five months," Dwyer said.

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