



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO  
GOVERNOR

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May 27, 2008

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee  
President  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1106; Concealed Weapons Permit; Renewal Option

Dear President Bee,

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1106, which proposes to make concealed weapons permits, once obtained, valid for the entire lifetime of the permit holder, without renewal.

Under current law, concealed weapons permits are valid for five years and renewable. At renewal, the Arizona Department of Public Safety conducts a criminal background check of the applicant to ensure he or she is still eligible to carry a concealed weapon. The criminal background check is paid for, in part, by a \$43.00 renewal fee. Because Arizona requires this renewal and criminal background check, other states and the Federal Bureau of Investigation accept the Arizona concealed weapons permit in lieu of their own permits and procedures.

A lifetime permit would eliminate the periodic opportunity to conduct these criminal background checks, which are an important part of ensuring that only non-felons lawfully carry concealed weapons. The lifetime permit would also, ironically, make it harder for permit holders to carry weapons outside of Arizona and to purchase firearms from firearm dealers without also passing an independent Federal Bureau of Investigation background check.

More important, the concept of lifetime validity for a concealed weapons permit is unwise public policy. In Arizona, a food service worker license is valid for three years, after which every chef, waiter, bartender and dishwasher must take a new exam on food safety to renew his or her license. If we believe protecting the public from food poisoning

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is important enough to require retesting and renewal, it is impossible to justify a lifetime permit for the carrying of a concealed weapon.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1106.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Janet Napolitano  
Governor

JN:LK  
cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers  
The Honorable Chuck Gray