

Spoken Script:

We urge the passage of this “Shall Issue” Concealed carry law which requires Maryland to issue permits for carrying concealed handguns provided the applicant satisfy objective criteria of moral character and training in lawful uses of lethal force and firearm familiarity.

This bill will reduce violence in Maryland as similar policies have reduced violence in all states where such laws have been enacted.

Opposition to such a law is emotional, scientifically unsound, and results from a distorted view of reality.

As an illustration of these distortions, we offer two views of Cindy Crawford. On the right we see the face of a lovely supermodel – her face has a blemish above her lip on the left side of her face. That blemish, a small mole, is insignificant to the view her face presents.

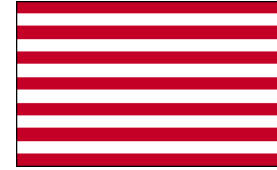
But anti-gun organizations such as the Brady Campaign, the Violence Policy Center and our own local CeaseFire Maryland are masters of taking small blemishes on lovely faces and magnifying them to make the blemish the center of the picture and pretend that is all that the picture is about. So, the left picture shows Cindy Crawford as these organizations would represent her to you applying their techniques of distortion.

Time permits us to give only a few examples of such blemish fetishes created by these distortionists and compare the whole face view to illustrate the truth about the effects of a “shall issue” policy to illustrate likely distortions you will hear from the other side.

**The Price
of Freedom**

**Maryland Citizens
Defense League**

<http://www.mcdl.org/>



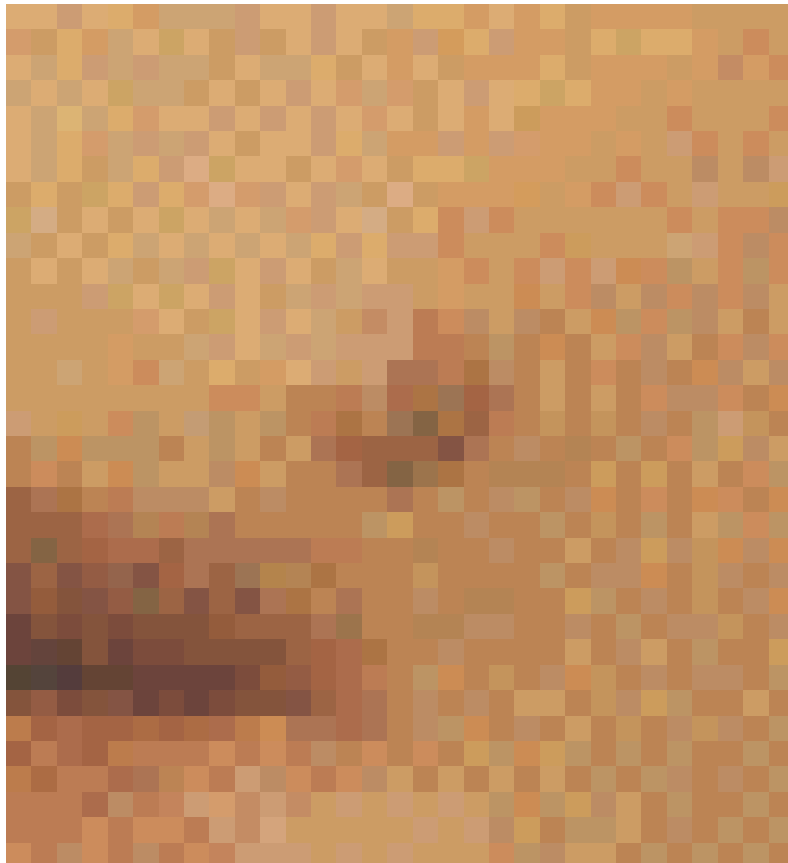
<http://www.mcrkba.org/>

Testimony on HB859/SB137

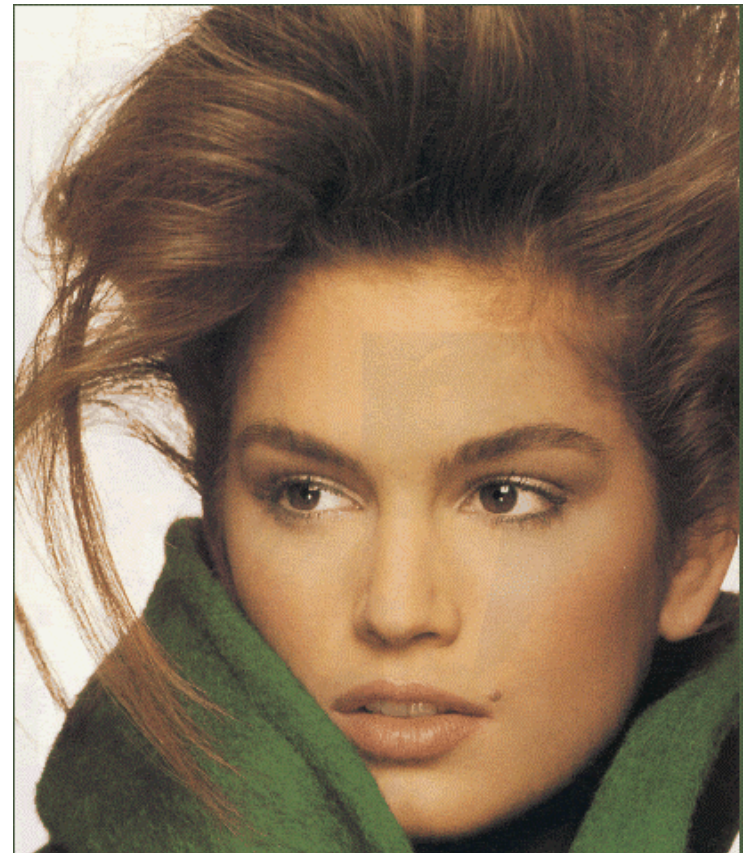
Philip F. Lee, PhD

3/16/04

**Brady/ CeaseFire /VPC
Blemish View**



**Cindy Crawford
Normal Face View**



Blemish View



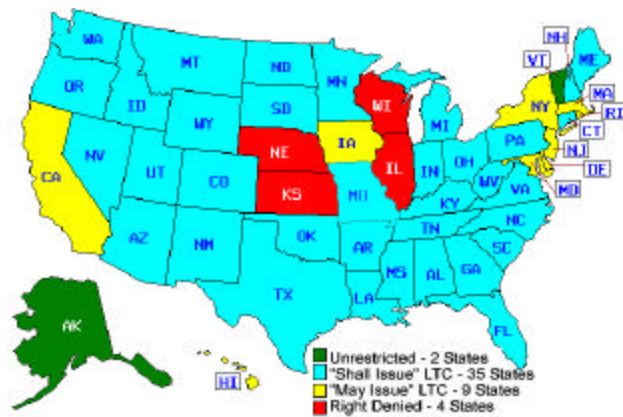
Clearly, the more we know about liberal ["shall issue"] carrying laws, the more we know how dangerous and deadly they are.

-- Handgun Control [Brady Campaign] press release 1/22/98

Face View



Many states have liberalized carrying law – None have found them so dangerous that they have repealed these laws.



In 1986 only a half-dozen states routinely issued permits for trained citizens to carry concealed handguns for personal protection. Today, 46 states permit concealed-carry of firearms by law-abiding citizens, two states (Vermont and Alaska) require no permit and all law-abiding citizens may carry concealed firearms, 34 states have "shall issue" requiring the state to issue permits to carry

concealed firearms to law-abiding citizens who qualify (usually by passing a training course)

Alaska found "shall issue" so successful, that they recently liberalized their policy to allow any citizen with a record of lawful behavior to carry concealed handguns like Vermont's policy.

Texas concealed handgun license (CHL) holders were arrested for a total of 5,314 crimes from 1/1/1996, to 8/31/01.

-- VPC License to Kill IV, More Guns, More Crime, p4
-- <http://www.vpc.org/graphics/ltk4.pdf>

This rate of arrest for Texas CHL holders is 475 per 100,000.

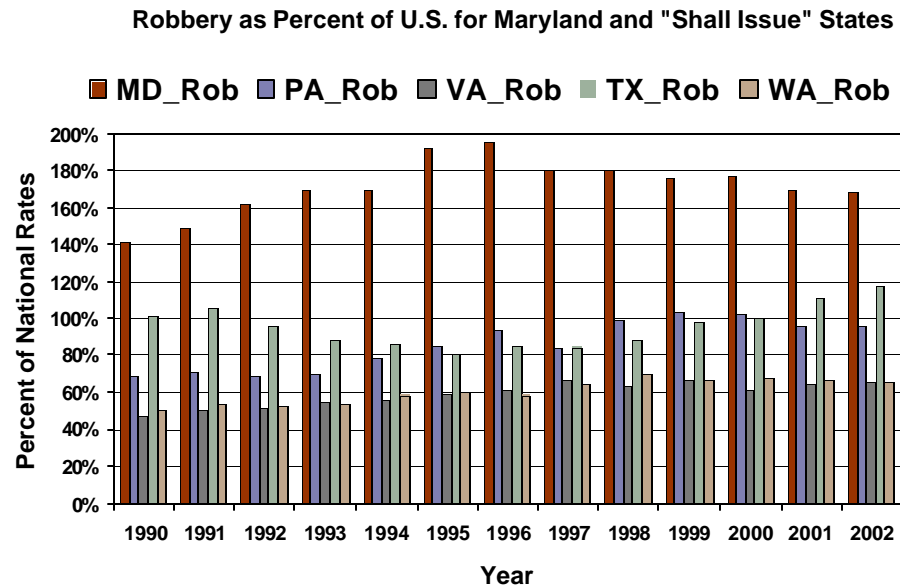
Maryland's 2001 arrest rate for adults is 13.6 times as high as these CHL holders.

Texas rate for adults is 7.5 times as high.

National rate for adults is 12.4 times as high.

Arrest data is regularly accepted as a valid measure of crime, reflecting law enforcement response to criminal activity.

-- VPC License to Kill IV, More Guns, More Crime, p4



By every measure, Maryland is more violent than states with "shall issue" conceal handgun license programs in place for more than 5 years.

The figure shows Maryland's robbery rates since 1990 compared to those of nearby Pennsylvania and Virginia and to more distant Texas and Washington

All these other states have "shall issue" policies.

Maryland's robbery rates have been above 160% of the national rate since 1992 whereas the "shall issue" states are near the national average or better.

Texas arrested 41 CHL holders for murder or attempted Murder.

-- VPC License to Kill IV, More Guns, More Crime, p4

Charges are not convictions!

In Texas it is routine to charge murder or assault when there is a violent confrontation with CHL holders. Convictions of Texas CHL holders are rare.

By May 2000, only 3 convictions were obtained with 8 dismissals (>>8 decent people saved their lives by defending themselves).

If all Marylanders murdered at the rate of Texas CHL holders convicted of murder, we would have 21 murders per year instead of the 528 reported by the MSP for 2002.

The VPC won't tell you about convictions because truth doesn't serve their goal.

"... the ... concealed weapons bill in Michigan is dead for the [1999] session..." Congratulations to ... the Michigan Partnership who [defeated it] ...

-- Handgun Control [Brady Campaign] press release 6/14/99

<http://www.detnews.com/2002/metro/0203/21/a01-445943.htm>

Gun permits surge, but not violence

As the law nears its first anniversary, the majority of Michigianians favor it. A new Detroit News poll shows 58 percent support the law; 38 percent don't. Following the trend in new CCW applications, men favor the law more than women do, according to the poll.

This news article shows a typical media response from a year after a "shall issue" policy is implemented – in this case in Michigan.

Predictions of increased violence by the "blemish" crowd proved to be wrong again, which is not surprising, given their distorted views. .