



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 17, 2012

The Honorable Andy Tobin
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2729 (state regulation of firearms)

Dear Speaker Tobin,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 2729 (state regulation of firearms). This bill would have required public entities to provide security personnel and equipment in public buildings in order to limit or prohibit weapons. As you know, I vetoed a similar measure last year, and it appears the majority of my concerns were not addressed in House Bill 2729.

I am a strong proponent of the Second Amendment, and I have signed into law numerous pieces of legislation over these past few years to advance gun rights. However, I cannot support this measure in its current form. United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, in the *Heller* decision, recognized the legitimacy of laws "forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings." Decisions made by government officials at the state, county and municipal level impact all areas of life and can have a profound impact upon an individual's family and livelihood. Emotions can run high. The decision to permit or prohibit guns in these extremely sensitive locations – whether a City Council chamber or branch office staffed with State workers – should be cooperatively reached and supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders, including citizens, law enforcement officials and local government leaders.

I am also concerned about the fiscal impact of this legislation. Clearly, the Arizona House of Representatives and Senate buildings and Executive Tower would not be impacted by the legislation, as security measures are already in place. However, many other government jurisdictions across our state do not have this same luxury. They would face this choice: Either spend untold dollars in order to provide their officials and employees the same level of protection that we have at the Arizona State Capitol complex, or accept weapons on the premises. If nothing else, the result would be extensive confusion regarding where guns are permitted or not permitted in public buildings.

The Honorable Andy Tobin

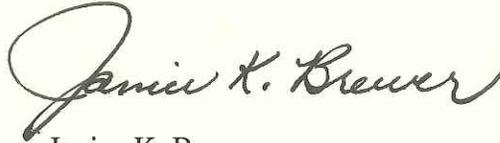
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While I appreciate the efforts of the bill sponsor, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done before this concept can become law. Ultimately, there must be a more thorough and collaborative discussion of the proper place for guns in the public arena. As the proponents of this measure continue to work toward expanding the application of this right, the CCW permit-holder concept and the protection of private property rights must play an important role. In addition, we need to thoughtfully consider public venues and situations in which weapons may not be appropriate, or may be prohibited by federal law.

Until these and other issues are resolved, this legislation is not ready to become part of Arizona law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Steve Pierce
The Honorable David Gowan