

**TO:** NHA Member Hospital CEOs

**FROM:** Roger Keetle  
Sr. Vice President, Advocacy

**DATE:** June 13, 2006

**RE:** The Concealed Carrying of Handguns Law Effective January 1, 2007

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Legal Counsel \_\_\_ Security \_\_\_ Safety Officer \_\_\_ Plant Operations/Engineering \_\_\_

The Nebraska Legislature recently passed LB 454, which allows certain persons to carry concealed handguns if they obtain a state-issued license. Governor Dave Heineman signed the legislation into law and it will take effect on January 1, 2007.

In response to the recently passed concealed carry legislation, this memorandum includes information for hospitals on adopting a policy to prohibit concealed weapons in their facilities.

Many groups were seeking exemptions from the bill; hence legislators opted to include language in the bill allowing any private entity to exclude itself. LB 454 includes only a limited list of locations where handguns are not permitted, including public buildings, day care centers, establishments serving alcohol, and emergency room and trauma centers. Of the 47 states with concealed carry laws, only four specifically exempt all parts of hospitals. **However, the legislation does permit hospitals to determine whether or not to allow concealed handguns in their facilities beyond the emergency room or trauma center.**

NHA has added a section to its Web site Advocacy page, <http://www.nhanet.org/advocacy/index.htm>, to assist member hospitals in better understanding and implementing the new law. The site also includes this memo and its attached samples, a link to the statute, a question and answer document about the concealed carry legislation, and a message board where hospitals from across the state can share their experiences in banning concealed carry in their facilities.