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## PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Madison County State's Attorney Thomas D. Gibbons testified earlier this week in Springfield before a task force concerning a proposed state law allowing the concealed carry of firearms.

The Illinois House of Representatives convened a special task force charged with reviewing pending concealed carry firearms legislation. People from across the state, on both sides of the issue, were present at the hearing. Attendees discussed the potential impact of the law in Illinois and what issues could be addressed that would make for a good law, if passed.

At the invitation of Illinois State Representative Dan Beiser (D-Alton), Gibbons spoke to the committee on Monday in support of the need for a responsible concealed carry bill that requires strong background checks and training for permit holders. He also discussed implications for State's Attorney's Offices with the task force. Based on his experience as a prosecutor working closely with police departments around the county, he recommended some changes to the law that would protect the public and police officer safety.

Gibbons testified last year in support of HB 148 which creates the Family and Personal Protection Act. This will allow individuals to apply for a permit through the Madison County Sheriff's Department for the right to carry a concealed firearm. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and meet certain training requirements that will be developed by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards board. Rep. Beiser is a co-sponsor of the bill which is currently before the House Rules Committee.

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