

FEDERALLY MANDATED CONCEALED CARRY

The gun lobby's top priority in 2017 is to pass a federal law mandating that each state recognize concealed carry permits from every other state. The problem is that standards for issuing permits to allow individuals to carry hidden, loaded firearms in public are dangerously lax in many states. Twelve states do not even require a permit to carry concealed. Forcing states with strong gun laws like California and New York to comply with weak laws from states like Florida and Louisiana will endanger public safety and make it significantly harder for police to enforce gun laws proven to save lives.

States' Gun Safety Laws Would Be Dangerously Undermined

States have a wide array of carrying concealed weapon (CCW) laws, which determine who can carry loaded, concealed handguns in public. Only nine states have robust permitting systems that allow the issuing authority discretion to deny a permit. An additional 14 offer limited discretion, 15 are a rubber stamp, and 12 don't even require a permit to carry, which combined with a lack of universal background checks, makes it all too easy for dangerous, prohibited people to carry guns in public and leaves law enforcement with fewer tools to prevent crimes.

Currently, each state decides whether it will recognize concealed carry weapons permits issued by other states. If the gun lobby has its way, Congress will override existing state laws and force every state to recognize concealed carry permits issued by every other state. This

would create a race to the bottom, giving the weakest state laws in the country the furthest reach and allowing individuals to carry guns in states where they cannot legally purchase firearms.

The dangers are borne out in the numbers. For example, Florida has very little in the way of CCW regulation and, by 2007, had issued CCW permits to over 1,400 felons, 216 people with outstanding warrants, and 28 people with active domestic violence injunctions. California meanwhile requires CCW permit applicants to demonstrate good cause to carry a weapon in public as well as good character. Under the gun lobby's plan, California would have to allow people with Florida permits to carry in California, even though they would not meet the state's safety standards.

A RACE TO THE BOTTOM

With mandatory concealed carry, California would be forced to recognize Florida's CCW permits, though Florida's standards are much weaker.

CALIFORNIA

- Must show good cause and good character to obtain a CCW permit
- Has issued 90,000 permits
- Law enforcement issues CCW permits

FLORIDA

- CCW permits must be issued to anyone who meets minimum requirements
- Has issued 1.3 million permits
- Department of Agriculture issues CCW permits

Mandatory Concealed Carry's Impact on Law Enforcement

Federally mandated concealed carry may prevent law enforcement officers from arresting or detaining a person they suspect of unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon, and some bills even include provisions to hold individual officers liable for these arrests. Law enforcement would be forced to confront large numbers of travelers with CCW permits with little or no knowledge of the relevant state firearms laws, thus making it difficult to verify that an individual with an out-of-state CCW permit is legally allowed to carry in public.

Some state permit cards do not contain the holder's photograph, looking more like paper library cards than official documents authorizing the carrying of a hidden, loaded firearm. This confusion would have a chilling effect on law enforcement's ability to detect and prevent criminals from using falsified CCW permits, which will make it easier for guns to be trafficked into dangerous hands.

In order to confirm that an individual's CCW permit is authentic, law enforcement would have to contact the issuing agency in the permit holder's state, as there is no nationwide database and sometimes no statewide database for CCW permit holders. Colorado law, for example, prohibits the creation of a statewide database, while other states do not require locally issued permits to be reported to its state system.

National concealed carry reciprocity legislation is opposed by key law enforcement organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence.

Allow States to Continue to Determine Their Own Concealed Carry Laws

States are responsible for passing laws that make their communities safer. No state should be forced to accept any and all concealed carry permit holders, especially states that require advanced training for CCW licenses. States like Illinois, Minnesota, and Oregon allow law enforcement to deny permits upon evidence that the person is likely to be dangerous if he or she carries a gun

in public, and it is their right to do so. States like Arkansas, Michigan, and Nevada require live-fire instruction for concealed carry permits, and they should not be forced into accepting permits from states that don't require any such training. These and all other states must have the ability to pass and enforce their own laws, and an irresponsible federal mandate would obstruct these rights.

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For more details and underlying research, visit lawcenter.giffords.org/concealed-carry

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UNDERMINING GUN SAFETY LAWS

12 states do not require any CCW permits at all: Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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