

November 28, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi,

We write to you today in opposition to H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017. As longtime law enforcement professionals, we have seen the impact of gun violence first hand. We believe Congress should act to protect American communities from gun violence, not open them up to greater risk. H.R. 38 will make it more difficult for our fellow law enforcement officers to effectively enforce the gun laws of their communities. This will have a detrimental impact on public safety across the country which is why we are asking you to reject this reckless proposal.

Currently, each state has the authority to determine the extent to which it will recognize the concealed carry permits of other states. Some states have strong laws limiting who can carry guns in public and require training and a thorough evaluation to do so; other states issue permits using lower standards, even to non-residents. The 12 states with the weakest laws, permitless carry states, do not even require a permit, meaning a resident of that state may carry a loaded, concealed firearm in public spaces even without ever having passed a background check. H.R. 38 would allow people who have a permit issued by any state - including residents from permitless carry states - the authority to carry loaded, concealed handguns in any state regardless of the fact that they might not meet local public safety standards. In practice, this would mean an 18-year-old high school student from Arizona could legally carry a concealed firearm in Washington, D.C., where residents must be 21 to even own a handgun. Completely undermining states' rights, the bill would allow untrained individuals to carry concealed even in states that have rejected reciprocity and proactively taken steps to protect citizens' public safety.

The physical concealed carry permit for each state also varies. In some states, permits resemble driver's licenses, while others look more like a library card that anyone could produce. This will pose serious challenges for law enforcement in every state, as we would be unable to verify whether or not an individual with an out-of-state concealed weapons permit is legally allowed to carry a loaded firearm. It would also



mean that law enforcement officers would need to become legal experts concerning regulations in all 50 states in order to determine whether an individual is entitled to carry a concealed handgun. Much of policing is looking for the out of the ordinary, but when individuals abide by the laws of their own states instead of the one they are in, this becomes nearly impossible. Law enforcement's ability to keep communities safe would be hindered even further due to the proposal's threat of personal litigation against law enforcement officers who attempt to enforce gun laws. As a result, officers would be at risk when conducting a thorough investigation, deterring them from effectively doing their jobs and keeping communities safe.

As law enforcement professionals, we understand the power of firearms. Importantly, we also understand the value and efficacy of commonsense laws that protect public safety. Many major law enforcement groups have been outspoken in their opposition to mandating concealed carry reciprocity. Joining those organizations in this vein, we respectfully request that both the House and Senate reject H.R. 38 and the threat it poses to our communities and law enforcement officers nationwide.

Sincerely,

Commissioner John Barbieri, Springfield Police Department, Springfield, MA  
Commissioner Charles Ramsey (Ret.), Philadelphia Police Department, Philadelphia PA  
Director B. Todd Jones (Ret.), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Sheriff Mike Reese, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Multnomah County, OR  
Sheriff Lupe Valdez, Dallas County Sheriff's Department, Dallas, TX  
Chief Andrew Bidou, Vallejo Police Department, Vallejo, CA  
Chief Jim Bueermann (Ret.), President, Police Foundation, Washington, DC  
Chief Robert Champagne (Ret.), Peabody Police Department, Peabody, MA  
Chief Louis Dekmar, LaGrange Police Department, LaGrange, GA  
Chief Ivan Fossen (Ret.), Glenwood Police Department, Glenwood, MN  
Chief Michael Gahagan, Caribou Police Department, Caribou, ME  
Chief Jeffrey Hadley, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, Kalamazoo, MI  
Chief Scott Knight, Chaska Police Department, Chaska, MN  
Chief Ron Louie (Ret.), Hillsboro Police Department, Hillsboro, OR  
Chief Chris Magnus, Tucson Police Department, Tucson, AZ  
Chief James Moore, Rocky Mount Police Department, Rocky Mount, NC  
Chief Kathleen O'Toole, Seattle Police Department, Seattle, WA  
Chief Michael Sauschuck, Portland Police Department, Portland, ME  
Chief Paul Schnell, Maplewood Police Department, Maplewood, MN  
Chief Henry Stawinski, Prince George's County Police Department, Prince George's County, MD