

Concealed Carry Reciprocity is a Threat to Public Safety and Law Enforcement Officers

H.R. 38, The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would allow dangerous people to carry concealed guns nationwide, ignoring state laws.

Concealed carry reciprocity (CCR) would infringe and override existing state laws and force every state to honor concealed carry permits and permissions issued by other states. CCR would also hinder the ability of law enforcement officers to arrest or detain any person suspected of unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon.

CCR would give the weakest state laws in the country the furthest reach and allow individuals to carry guns in states where they cannot even legally purchase firearms.

Currently, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have the power to decide and implement their own laws about who can carry loaded, concealed handguns in public. This bill would NOT create a consistent national standard across states. Instead it would strip states' rights and force them to accept all permits and permissions from all other states even if they don't meet the requirements in that state. Eleven states, like Pennsylvania, don't require any training in order to get a concealed carry permit, and states like West Virginia issue permits to non-residents. The 29 "permitless carry states" don't even require a permit to carry concealed. In 27 of these states, a person can obtain the handgun they carry without a background check. CCR would force all states to accept these concealed gun carriers, even if they have no idea who they are letting in.

Due to variation in permit requirements and physical appearance, CCR would make it nearly impossible for police to enforce the law. A New York police officer is not trained to enforce Montana gun laws, and vice versa. There is no nationwide system to verify the validity of concealed carry permits. Under some versions of CCR, if an officer accidentally arrests someone they think is breaking the wrong state's law, the police officer could be charged with a crime.

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act is a threat to public safety, and lax concealed carry laws increase violent confrontations:

- Law enforcement officials consistently oppose state permitless carry laws.
- Violent crime rates rose 13-15% in states that weakened their standards for concealed carry.
- States that ended live-fire training requirements by adopting permitless carry laws saw a 32% increase in gun assaults.

Congress must oppose H.R. 38, The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.