

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



April 15, 2013



Dear Members of Congress:

I write on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) to share our strong opposition to national concealed carry reciprocity, which may be offered as an amendment to S. 649.



National concealed carry reciprocity would severely undermine state concealed carry licensing systems by allowing out of state visitors to carry concealed firearms even if those visitors have not met the standards for carrying a concealed weapon in the state they are visiting.



It would preempt state concealed carry laws, which vary widely. Not all require background checks or safety training, for instance. States and localities should have the right to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities.



National concealed carry reciprocity would create potentially life-threatening situations for law enforcement officers. During traffic stops, it would be nearly impossible for police to verify the validity of nearly 50 different carry permits, forcing officers to make split-second decisions for their own safety in an already dangerous situation.



The Partnership is an alliance of the nation's law enforcement leadership organizations concerned about the unacceptable level of gun violence in the United States. Our members include the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA); Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA); International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC); National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Police Executive Research Forum (PERF); and the Police Foundation (PF).



We respectfully urge every member of Congress to respect state laws and protect our nation's police officers and the citizens they serve by opposing national concealed-carry reciprocity.

Sincerely,

Chief Jim Johnson, Baltimore County, MD
Chair, National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence

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