




LAW ENFORCEMENT  
ACTION PARTNERSHIP  
ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS



**NBSA**  
NATIONAL BLACK SHERIFFS  
ASSOCIATION



  
ASSOCIATION OF  
PROSECUTING  
ATTORNEYS

**PAGV**  
PROSECUTORS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

## STATEMENT OF NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS ON PROPOSED CONCEALED CARRY MANDATE

The undersigned national law enforcement organizations urge members of Congress to oppose both the House and Senate versions of the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act (H.R. 38/S. 65).

The undersigned have opposed previous legislative attempts to create a new federal mandate that would force states to allow an individual from any other state to carry concealed and loaded guns in public within their borders—whether or not such an individual can meet that state’s standards and requirements to be able to carry a concealed firearm. This mandate would severely erode public and officer safety by undermining protective, well-established state laws that govern carrying concealed firearms, including requirements for safety training and laws that prohibit carry by individuals convicted of violent offenses.

State laws that require a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public help protect public safety and provide law enforcement with an important tool to verify whether someone carrying a concealed firearm is allowed to do so. But H.R. 38 and S. 65 would require all states to allow concealed carry by individuals from states that don’t require such a permit as well as individuals who have been issued a permit under another state’s laws.

This misguided legislation would override state laws on who may carry concealed guns, preempting local and state perspectives on what’s best for their communities, by forcing states to accept weaker or even nonexistent concealed carry standards and eliminate each state’s longstanding authority to determine who may exercise the enormous responsibility of carrying a concealed and loaded firearm in public.

Training is a critical requirement of state concealed carry laws because - as law enforcement officers understand and practice themselves - training is a vitally important aspect of carrying any firearm, especially a concealed one. In fact, law enforcement officers are extensively trained on responsible firearm use, including making split-second decisions about when deadly force is appropriate; they also attend periodic in-service training, and regularly requalify with their service weapons—most, at least, semi-annually.

However, more than 30 states do not require training in order to carry a concealed and loaded gun in public. Under H.R. 38 and S. 65, those states that have retained this crucial training requirement would be forced to allow untrained individuals to conceal carry in them, including by individuals who have never fired or even been trained to handle a gun before.

In addition, this legislation would make it difficult for state and local law enforcement to be able to confirm during public contacts and routine interactions with civilians that someone carrying a concealed and loaded gun in public is allowed to do so because there is no mechanism for police to verify out-of-state concealed carry permits—and that's only if the person has a permit from another state, because, if the individual is from a state that does not require a permit, there may not even be a permit for law enforcement to verify in the first place. Without this critical verification tool, it would be near impossible for law enforcement to confirm that an armed individual is carrying legally.

H.R. 38 contains an additional provision that compounds this problem. The House legislation would expose law enforcement officers who attempt to confirm a person is carrying legally to lawsuits in federal court that would create a chilling effect in instances where police have to make split-second decisions to protect others and themselves. This would deter police from taking appropriate and lawful action that may prevent someone from committing a serious and violent crime.

For these reasons, we oppose legislation that would create a new federal mandate that would force states to recognize the concealed carry standards and requirements, or lack thereof, of other states. This mandate would make states with the weakest standards into the law of the land, endangering communities across the United States, creating unacceptable risks for our nation's 900,000 law enforcement officers, and overriding states' rights.

The undersigned national law enforcement organizations urge you to respect and defend state laws while protecting and supporting our nation's law enforcement officers by opposing H.R. 38 and S. 65. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

- [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#)
- [Law Enforcement Action Partnership](#)
- [National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives](#)
- [National Black Sheriffs Association](#)
- [National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives](#)
- [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#)
- [Prosecutors Against Gun Violence](#)