



The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C 20515

Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Our organization today carries the name of Jim and Sarah Brady. As you know, Jim was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. As victims of gun violence and life-long gun owners, Jim and Sarah dedicated the rest of their lives to passing federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to combat the epidemic of gun violence.

As the House Committee on Judiciary will be considering the LEOSA Reform Act, I write to share Brady's deep concern and opposition to this legislation. This bill would broaden the authority for certain active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms nationwide under the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA). Further, it reduces the firearm training standards for retired police officers to qualify for carrying concealed firearms. This bill will prevent states from enforcing their own concealed carry laws, undermine the rights of private individuals regarding firearms on their property, open sensitive places to firearms, increase the likelihood of friendly fire between officers, and decrease the effectiveness of retired law enforcement officers.

While the original LEOSA preserved the right of states to maintain some control over the possession of concealed weapons within their borders and the right of private persons and entities to limit the possession of concealed weapons on their property, the LEOSA Reform Act upends this balance and allow for the carrying of concealed firearms in almost all places open to the public. Prior to the enactment of LEOSA in 2004, only Federal law enforcement officers could lawfully carry concealed firearms nationwide. LEOSA expanded the rights of qualified active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms across state lines, however, the law states that it "shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that— (1) permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property; or (2) prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State or local government property, installation, building, base, or park." Under the LEOSA Reform Act, states and private property owners can no longer prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by such officers in places open to the public, such as parks, playgrounds, restaurants, theaters, school zones, and

other places under control of State or local governments. Further, the LEOSA Reform Act would allow such active and retired officers to carry firearms in national parks and many federal facilities — all such places that were intentionally and carefully excluded from the 2004 law.

While there is always a risk that an off-duty, plain-clothes, or retired officer may be mistaken for a suspect and fired upon by responding police officers, this risk compounds when the officer travels outside of their own jurisdiction and into communities where they are unfamiliar with state firearm laws and are unknown to local law enforcement officers. Allowing such officers to carry concealed firearms in sensitive places, such as schools and government buildings, would only create additional confusion and increase the risk of injury or death if that individual attempted to intervene in an incident.

Further, this legislation would not only nullify the rights of states to control the carry of concealed firearms within their own borders, it would further prevent them from enforcing other firearms laws, such as those limiting magazine capacity, for such individuals.

Finally, the LEOSA Reform Act would greatly diminish firearm training standards for retired police officers who would qualify to carry concealed firearms nationwide, reducing the requirement of qualification from once annually to once every three years. As even the NRA has emphasized, *marksmanship is a perishable skill* that requires regular training to maintain. If retired law enforcement officers wish to maintain the privilege of carrying concealed firearms across state lines, they should continue to complete firearm qualification annually to minimize the chances of unintentional injury.

The LEOSA Reform Act will not enhance public safety, and instead will create confusion for law enforcement agencies across the country as they work to protect the public from harm. This misguided legislation will trample the rights of states to enforce their own laws concerning the carrying of concealed firearms, undermine the rights of private individuals to determine whether firearms may be allowed on their property, unnecessarily inject firearms into sensitive places, increase the likelihood of law enforcement officers being injured or killed, and decrease the effectiveness of retired law officers who might intervene in dangerous situations. As such, Brady opposes the LEOSA Reform Act and urges Members to vote against reporting it to the House when it comes up for a vote.

If you have any questions about this legislation, or if Brady can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best,
Mark

Mark A. Collins
Director, Federal Policy
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