



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 Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, I write to share Brady's deep concern and opposition to this legislation. This bill would dramatically expand the number of people carrying concealed handguns everywhere in the United States, regardless of state law, and would disincentivize law enforcement from ensuring that individuals carrying concealed firearms are doing so legally. This bill would establish a dangerous federal statutory framework that would force states with higher standards for carrying concealed firearms to allow nonresidents from states with lower (or no) standards, to carry concealed firearms within their borders regardless of state law.

Every U.S. state and the District of Columbia allows law-abiding residents to concealed carry firearms. While every state in the U.S. has a concealed carry permitting system in place, 29 states [do not require any permit](#) to carry a concealed firearm. Many states, including Colorado, Michigan, and California, require safety courses and live-fire training before issuing a permit. Some states, like New Jersey and New York, require multiple character references as part of the application process. Some states have very few requirements. For instance, Indiana recently issued a concealed carry permit to [a person who is legally blind](#).

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would allow individuals from states with weaker permit requirements, *or no permit requirements*, [to carry concealed firearms in school zones](#) when visiting other states. The bill would also allow nonresidents to carry concealed firearms in states where it would otherwise be illegal for them to even purchase or possess a firearm, either based on age or state-level prohibitors for criminal misconduct.

Under this bill, state and local law enforcement agencies would be *civilly liable for even attempting* to detain an individual to determine whether they are lawfully carrying firearms, disincentivizing them from enforcing their own state's concealed carry laws or from arresting individuals who are in illegal possession of guns. This bill requires law enforcement to know every other state's laws and be able to validate every other state's permits in order to determine whether someone could lawfully carry a concealed gun. Concealed carry reciprocity prevents states from meaningfully or effectively regulating the public carry of concealed handguns and creates an enormous burden on law enforcement officers who need to make life-and-death decisions when encountering individuals who are armed.

Permitless carry laws are dangerous and are associated with higher levels of gun deaths and violent crime. In states that have adopted them, such laws have been associated with a [13% increase in firearm homicides and a 29% increase in violent gun crime](#). In [16 of the 20 states](#) that enacted permitless carry between 2015 and 2022, there were more non-suicide shooting deaths in the period after the laws took effect than in an equivalent time period before. Furthermore, here is no widely endorsed research that expanding public carry — especially concealed carry — has any public safety benefits. Firearms are rarely used successfully in [self-defense](#). In fact, individuals successfully defend themselves with a gun in less than [1%](#) of crimes.

This legislation dramatically undermines law enforcement's ability to enforce laws in service of public safety. Law enforcement officials across the country have consistently opposed permitless carry laws, including those in [Texas](#), [Ohio](#), [Louisiana](#), and [West Virginia](#). As such, Brady opposes the Concealed Carry Reciprocity and urges Members to vote against reporting it to the House Floor when it comes up for a vote.

Best regards,
Mark

Mark A. Collins
Director, Federal Policy
Brady: United Against Gun Violence
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