March 24, 2025

House Judiciary Committee U.S. House of Representatives 2138 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Opposition to H.R. 38 – The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Newtown Action Alliance, I write to strongly oppose H.R. 38, the so-called "Constitutional" Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2025. This dangerous legislation would override state gun laws and impose the weakest national standard — or lack thereof — for carrying concealed firearms across all 50 states.

Our organization was founded in the aftermath of the unspeakable tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, where twenty children and six educators were murdered in our community on December 14, 2012. In the years since, we have fought tirelessly to strengthen gun laws, support survivors, and prevent future acts of gun violence.

In the wake of that tragedy, Connecticut enacted some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, including comprehensive permitting requirements for carrying concealed firearms. These laws have helped make Connecticut one of the states with the lowest rates of gun deaths in the country. H.R. 38 would nullify our hard-won protections by allowing individuals from states with no permit, no background check, and no training requirements to legally carry concealed, loaded firearms in our state — and in every other state that has enacted strong gun safety standards.

The proposed legislation would turn the weakest state laws into the national standard, making it impossible for states like Connecticut to protect their residents from the risks posed by unvetted and untrained individuals carrying concealed weapons.

According to <u>GVPedia</u>, states that have passed permitless carry laws have seen a 27% increase in gun homicides, compared to a 10% national increase. We also know from <u>Stanford University's research</u> that weakening concealed carry laws results in a 13–15% rise in violent crime, largely driven by aggravated assaults. These outcomes are unacceptable and would be exacerbated by a federal mandate that strips away state discretion.

Additionally, this bill poses significant risks to law enforcement officers, who would be left to navigate a patchwork of inconsistent and unverified concealed carry credentials, endangering their ability to do their jobs safely and effectively.

Our community knows the devastating cost of gun violence. We refuse to let the gun lobby's "any guns, to anyone, anywhere" agenda override the rights of states to enact and enforce life-saving gun safety laws.

We urge the Judiciary Committee to reject H.R. 38 and instead support legislation that saves lives, respects state sovereignty, and prioritizes public safety over politics.

Sincerely, Po Murray Chairwoman Newtown Action Alliance