

CeaseFirePA

Taking a Stand Against Gun Violence in Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CeaseFirePA and Law Enforcement Partners Highlight Dangers of National Mandatory Concealed Carry Reciprocity

Philadelphia (Dec. 5, 2017) -- Today, CeaseFirePA hosted a press conference about the dangers of legislation moving in Congress that would mandate national concealed carry reciprocity. Joining CeaseFirePA Executive Shira Goodman were Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross and PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

Currently, every state sets its own standards governing the issuance of concealed carry licenses or permits and enters into agreements with other states about reciprocity. PA residents apply to their county sheriff (or in Philadelphia, the Police Department) for a concealed carry license. Issuance is based on a background check and review of “good character.” Some other states require proficiency and safety training, but 12 states allow concealed carry without any license or permit at all.

The bill pending in Congress and set to be voted on as early as tomorrow (HR 38) DOES NOT set a national standard, but rather eliminates all standards. Under this bill, if you can carry a concealed firearm in any state, you can in every state. Simply put, this bill will undermine Pennsylvania state and local law enforcement authority about licensing and reciprocity.

Law enforcement agencies and organizations across the nation (Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA), International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE), National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), Police Foundation (PF)) have expressed grave concern and opposition to this bill. The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association issued a statement explaining, “We have confidence in the current laws of our state and the ability of our Attorney General to determine those states that we feel would be considered for reciprocity. We see no need for congress to step into the matter of state and local law enforcement.”

“This is a very dangerous bill,” said Goodman, “and we believe that it will make PA less safe. We are honored to have key law enforcement officials like Commissioner Ross, Attorney General Shapiro and the PA Chiefs standing with us to point out how this bill could affect PA.”