



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

July 20, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am writing to seek your assistance in protecting states' rights by opposing Senator Thune's amendment to the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would allow people who are issued concealed weapons permits in their home state to carry those weapons in *any* state. This amendment would undermine the rights and responsibilities of state governments across this nation.

This is a simple question of protecting California's ability to determine who is allowed to carry a concealed weapon within our borders. Other states have less stringent requirements than ours, which means that a permit holder who would be ineligible for a concealed weapon under California law would be able to obtain a permit from another state and, under Senator Thune's amendment, still carry that weapon in California.

Our elected representatives – with the support of the majority of Californians – have set guidelines that are stricter than most states'. In California, background checks are conducted using a fingerprint-based system so the state can verify that the recipient of the permit is eligible to possess a firearm under state and federal law. Also, if a person becomes ineligible to possess a firearm because he or she was convicted of a felony or other disqualifying crime, that information is forwarded to their local agency so the permit can be revoked.

I have consistently supported states' rights to determine their own fates on a variety of issues. This amendment would trample the rights I have worked hard to protect, and I urge your opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

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