



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

April 17, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the
Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Reid and Chairman Leahy:

I write regarding **S. 2188, the “National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2012,”** and **S. 2213, the “Respecting States’ Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2012”** (collectively, the “concealed carry reciprocity bills”), which were recently introduced in the Senate.

These dangerous bills—which are **opposed by leading law enforcement organizations**—would undermine states’ rights by *forcing nearly every state* to accept the concealed-carry permits issued by other states, even if the permit holder could not qualify for a permit in the state to which he is traveling. By this letter, I respectfully place a **hold** on these bills and **request that you do not allow them to be considered** on their own or as an amendment to other legislation.

Imagine that a man who has been **convicted of a domestic violence crime** against a woman he had been dating seeks—and obtains—a permit to carry a concealed firearm from his state of residence. Under the concealed carry reciprocity bills, **he could legally travel across state lines and confront his former girlfriend**, even if the woman lives in my home state of California, which prohibits an individual who has committed a violent misdemeanor, including a domestic violence crime against a dating partner, from possessing a firearm.

The above scenario demonstrates the great harm that could result if either of the concealed carry reciprocity bills became law. Currently, **states vary widely in the requirements they impose** for an individual to possess a firearm or to obtain a permit to carry a weapon in a concealed manner. For example, the state of **California**:

- **Prohibits** possession by individuals convicted of **violent misdemeanors**, including **assault** or **threatening the life of a public official**;

- Requires completion of a **firearm safety training course** to carry a concealed weapon;
- Gives **law enforcement broad discretion to approve or deny** a concealed carry permit application; and
- Requires applicants to show that they have “**good moral character**” and “**good cause**” to carry a concealed weapon.

The concealed carry reciprocity bills would *override* these laws by **allowing a non-resident who cannot meet California’s standards to carry a concealed weapon into the state**. Other states issue permits to people with violent misdemeanor criminal convictions, do not require firearms safety training, do not grant any discretion to law enforcement to deny a permit application, or do not require an applicant to have good character or have a good cause to carry.

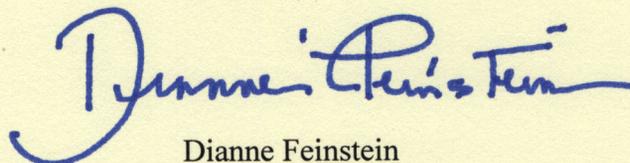
Besides putting domestic violence victims in danger, the concealed carry reciprocity bills would also create **potentially life threatening situations for law enforcement officers**. Often, it will be *impossible for an officer to determine if an out-of-state concealed carry permit furnished during a traffic stop is valid* because a majority of states do not enter permit information into the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), which is the primary interstate database that officers access when conducting a stop.

For these reasons, **major national law enforcement organizations**—including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association—as well as the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the American Bar Association, *oppose concealed carry reciprocity legislation*.

In recent weeks, our nation has witnessed tragic gun violence in Sanford, Florida and in Oakland, California, which is only a short drive from my home. Notably, George Zimmerman, the man who shot and killed 17-year old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida, **had been issued a concealed carry permit under Florida law, even though he had previously been subject to a court order for domestic abuse of his ex-fiancée**. Congress should heed the warnings of law enforcement and not force states to recognize the permits issued to individuals by other states.

I urge you to join with me in opposing these bills and to ensure that they are never considered by the Senate.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator