

HB 201- Constitutional Carry in Ohio
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Ohio can promote the safety of its own citizens and travelers in the state regardless of federal law by making it legal for any person not legally prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm to do so.

The attack on Rep. Steve Scalise shows that everyone needs to be able to carry a firearm. More particularly, Ohio legislators should take the attack on Rep. Scalise to heart.

This hearing on HB 201, sponsored by Reps. Hood and Brinkman, is very timely. The attempted assassination of Rep. Scalise was part of a larger murderous scheme of the Alexandria dirtbag. We know that from a list of other Republican congressmen targets found in his pocket.

Some on the left have found karma in the Scalise attack - a pro gunner felled by a gun-wielding assailant. Overlooked by this view is the role of the D.C. gun laws in the Alexandria attack.

Yes, of course, Alexandria is in VA - about 15 minutes from Capitol Hill in DC. The Republicans at the game in Alexandria could have had guns with them in Alexandria, and if they had been going home after the game, there would have been no problem. But going into Washington to work meant going into what amounts to a gun free zone.

Gun Owners of America is supporting a national carry permit recognition bill precisely to address the kind of situation faced by the Republicans playing baseball in Alexandria. We need a national law that operates in the same fashion as our driver permits are recognized. Article 4 of the US constitution requires the recognition of out-of- state drivers licenses, and concealed firearms permit holders need similar legal protection.

There are currently 12 states with constitutional carry laws plus another two that provide for that with some limitations.

Enough time has passed since AK, AR and WY have passed constitutional carry that we can gauge the impact on violent crime of these measures. Violent crime has declined, contrary to the alarmist predictions of gun control opponents of the measures.

Vermont has always had constitutional carry with no attendant crime problems.

Several years ago, Time magazine reported on a survey of over 30,000 Americans who were of the opinion that concealed carry of firearms decreases crime.

Police opinion - particularly of those cops on the street - has become increasingly supportive of law abiding citizens carrying concealed firearms. PoliceOne has surveyed large numbers of cops finding overwhelming support for concealed carry legislation.

Not only does constitutional carry have no political downside, it is truly constitutional - it removes all infringements of the right to keep and BEAR arms. The House version sponsored by Rep. Hudson of NC provides for constitutional carry states' citizens to carry concealed thruout the country using only their drivers license.

Constitutional carry also removes the temptation for bureaucrats to infringe on the Second Amendment.

For example in NYC, in the face of the Constitution, the law and even court orders, NYC bureaucrats refused to issue permits - even to those who managed to jump thru all the unconstitutional hoops put in their way.

When Richard Hatcher was mayor of Gary, IN, he was publicly on record pledging to not issue any permits.

Former police chief of San Jose, CA, Joseph McNamara bragged in his book that he had made it considerably tougher for residents to get carry permits.

In Virginia, applicants were for a time illegally required to submit finger prints for a carry permit. In Oregon, officials for a time denied applicants a permit for their political views - even on one occasion denying a permit to the editor of a pro-life publication.

An Iowa sheriff had bragged that he used to make it difficult for folks to get a permit, on one occasion using a traffic violation as the excuse.

A NJ police chief is infamous for refusing to issue a permit, in spite of the legal requirement to do so, to a woman threatened by an ex-boyfriend. The ex was able finally to kill his unarmed victim.

One of the more dangerous examples of official abuse of the carry laws has been the publishing of names and addresses of permit holders.

Permit systems have also been used for confiscation of guns. In NYC and CA, semi autos were registered, then later were banned. Foreign countries have behaved in the same fashion.

The Constitution should end all debate - the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Unhappily, this legal prohibition of gun control has been observed in the breach about as often as has the first amendment provision that “Congress shall make no law “... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;”.

Reps. Hood and Brinkman offer the Ohio legislature the opportunity to bring Ohio law closer to conforming to the U.S. Constitution. It will contribute to the public safety of all Ohioans whether they chose to carry a gun or not.