



July 6, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

William G. Milliken
Chairman of the Board

Hubert Williams
President

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Police Foundation is strongly opposed to H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011.

H.R. 822 would severely undermine state concealed carry licensing systems by allowing out of state visitors to carry concealed firearms even if those visitors have not met the standards for carrying a concealed weapon in the state they are visiting. For example, some states require a person to show that they know how to use a firearm or meet minimum training standards before obtaining a concealed carry license. These states would be forced to allow out of state visitors to carry concealed weapons even if they do not meet that state's concealed licensing standards.

States and localities should have the right to determine who is eligible to carry firearms in their communities. It is essential that state, local and tribal governments maintain the ability to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities—private citizens as well as active and former law enforcement personnel. The vast majority of states have set minimum requirements for obtaining a permit to carry a concealed gun, and Congress should respect those laws instead of trying to usurp them.

Finally, this law would not only frustrate our police officers, it would endanger them. Policing our streets and confronting the risks inherent in even routine traffic stops is already perilous enough without increasing the number of guns that officers encounter. Ambiguity as to the legality of firearm possession could lead to confusion among police officers that could result in catastrophic incidences. Congress should be working to make the job of a police officer more safe, not less.

We urge every member of Congress who respects the prerogatives of local law enforcement and strives to protect our nation's police officers to take immediate action to oppose and vote against this legislation.

Sincerely,



Hubert Williams

Improving Policing in America Since 1970

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