

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives



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PRESS RELEASE

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The National Organization of Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Opposes the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017

NOBLE National President Cites the Act’s Inherent Danger to Vulnerable Populations & Costs to Local Policing Bodies

ALEXANDRIA, VA - Last week the U.S. House Judiciary Committee voted in favor of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. If enacted into law, this legislation has the potential to create several unintended consequences specific to vulnerable populations across this country. “Allowing the concealed carry transport of firearms across state lines puts many women and young children in inherent danger as evidenced by the rise in domestic violence and partner abuse. Additionally, because concealed carry reciprocity creates a loophole that allows individuals to actively avoid criminal background checks (a typical necessity in obtaining a gun), this legislation would potentially allow those unqualified to purchase guns an opportunity to do so--the threats associated with the passage of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act are vast, Congressional leadership should fully consider those that will be negatively impacted,”- said NOBLE National President, Clarence E. Cox, III.

The issue of gun rights and access remains a very polarizing topic with resounding cries from the gun lobby and gun control advocates across the country. However, there should be no debate regarding the dangers of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. “The legislation will now go before the full House for a vote, potentially allowing people to carry hidden guns in every state with no permit, no training, and no background checks. It undermines local public safety decisions and puts police officers at risk. States attorneys across the country have also deemed the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act unconstitutional. This legislation is wrought with greatly disturbing consequences and will only increase the amount of gun-related crimes across the country,” - said Cox.

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would also impose significant costs on the states. They would have to provide extensive (and expensive) training to teach law enforcement how to respond to out-of-state guests claiming a right to carry under the laws of distant states. There's no national database of concealed carry permits like there is for driver's licenses, so if Congress passed the legislation, states would be forced to create new and costly tools for police who encounter nonresidents with hidden guns. This cost would be monumental and outside of the budget of most local policing entities.

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About the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

Since 1976, The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. NOBLE represents over 3,000 members internationally, who are primarily African-American chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies at federal, state, county and municipal levels, other law enforcement administrators, and criminal justice practitioners. For more information, visit www.noblenational.org.

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