

Resolution Opposing Concealed Carry Reciprocity

WHEREAS on January 3, 2017, U.S. Representative Richard Hudson (R-NC) introduced H.R. 38 and on February 27, 2017, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced S. 446, both known as the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017;

WHEREAS on December 6, 2017, H.R. 38 passed in the US House of Representatives by a vote of 231-198;

WHEREAS while every state allows concealed carry of firearms under some circumstances, each state has different requirements on who is permitted to carry, what requirements are appropriate, and what type of training should be required of permit holders;

WHEREAS the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 would allow people with concealed carry permits in one state to carry their weapon in any other state, including those with stricter limits on concealed carry than the state in which they obtained their permit;

WHEREAS Washington has some of the strongest gun responsibility laws in the country, Washington has the tenth-lowest firearm mortality in the country, and this legislation would undermine our state values by potentially allowing unsafe individuals from states with significantly less-stringent regulations to carry weapons in our state;

WHEREAS these bills would force Washington to abide by laws passed by other states and severely hampering Washington's ability to prevent criminal firearm trafficking, criminal possession of weapons, and the general proliferation of firearms in public places;

WHEREAS studies by the American Public Health Association have shown that firearms are a poor choice for self-defense as they increase the likelihood of death or injury to the possessor; and

WHEREAS our nation is suffering from an epidemic of gun violence that kills well over 600 Washingtonians every year, and we must begin taking steps to protect our citizens from this public health crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Washington State Democrats oppose H.R. 38 and S. 446, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, and call on our elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to vote against these bills and work with their colleagues to oppose these bills.

Submitted by the Skagit County Democrats.

The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their May 20, 2018 meeting.

The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16, 2018.