

Position – Oppose SB0001 Criminal Law - Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms - Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023) Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

Written Testimony:

Top Reasons for Our Right to Conceal Carry

- **To Protect Our Families**
- **We Don't Have Time to Wait for The Police**
- **We Can't Rely on Someone Else to Save Us**
- **Deterrence Against Injury by Violent Criminals**
- **Violent Criminals Are in Our Society**
- **We Gain the Tactical Advantage in Dangerous Situations**
- **It's Our Right under the Constitution and confirmed by the Supreme Court**

One of the most sacred duties we have is to protect our families. One of the most effective ways to protect our family is to obtain a concealed carry permit and carry concealed whenever possible. One never knows when criminals are going to strike, and we need to be prepared should a self-defense incident arise.

### **We Don't Have Time to Wait for The Police**

Even under good conditions, when you call 911, it is going to take roughly 10 minutes for the police to respond. Even if the police were on the scene in half the average response time, we or a loved one could be seriously injured.

### **We Can't Rely on Someone Else to Save Us**

Ultimately, we have to take responsibility for your own safety, and you cannot expect others, including the police, to come to your rescue. Your best course of action is to get a concealed carry permit and be prepared to defend yourself should it become necessary.

### **Deterrence**

A significant benefit of concealed carry is that it is one of the most effective measures that states and municipalities can enact to deter and discourage violent crime. In a landmark study of FBI data completed by John R. Lott, Jr., Ph.D., (<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/concealed-carry/violent-crime.html>) it was found that states with shall-issue concealed carry laws saw a reduction of at least 5% in the number of murders, rapes, and aggravated assaults committed. The logical conclusion here is that criminals are less likely to attack an individual when they know they could be carrying a firearm.

### **Violent Criminals Are Out There**

The danger posed by criminals is ever present, and if you're caught unprepared you can wind up in serious trouble. According to statistics from the FBI, in 2019 there were more than 8,000,000 crimes that fell under either "violent crime" or "property crime." ( <https://mylegalheat.com/blog/top-10-reasons-more-people-should-conceal-carry/> ) If you have a concealed carry weapon, you have the tools needed to keep yourself from becoming a statistic.

### **You Gain the Tactical Advantage in Dangerous Situations**

The entire point of carrying a concealed weapon is to gain a tactical advantage over potential threat actors. The benefit of carrying a concealed weapon gives you the ability to catch a criminal off guard. They might be cognizant that someone has a gun, but they won't know it's you until you make your move.

### **Because It's Our Right**

Outside of protecting ourself and our family, the fact that you have a constitutional right to keep and bear arms is the best reason for carrying a concealed firearm. While there are situations where an individual forfeits their rights – such as by committing a felony – most Americans maintain the individual right to keep and bear arms in the interest of self-defense.

This was affirmed by the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia who delivered the majority opinion for the 2008 ruling on District of Columbia v. Heller. The majority decision held that "the inherent right of self-defense has been central to the Second Amendment right." We have a right to defend ourselves and our loved ones, and that is honestly all the reason we need to concealed carry.

Respectfully submitted,

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