

# NYAGV

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

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March 19, 2015

Hon. Darius Pridgeon  
Council President  
Buffalo Common Council  
City Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14201

Dear Council President Pridgeon,

I am writing on behalf of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV), the Buffalo Peacemakers and the Stop the Violence Coalition (STVC) of Buffalo. We are united in urging you to support our strong opposition to any federal legislation that would preempt New York State law regarding the carrying of concealed firearms by civilian non-residents.

We are opposed, not because we oppose the Second Amendment – we do not, but because even those with a license to carry in their home state may not have been required to demonstrate any relative skill or knowledge concerning firearms prior to receiving a license.

The Federally Mandated Concealed Carry legislation would severely undermine New York's concealed carry licensing laws by allowing out-of-state visitors to carry concealed firearms, even if those visitors have not met the standards for carrying a concealed weapon that our residents must meet.

Such federal proposals usurp individual state and local concealed carry laws, which vary widely. Not all states require background checks or safety training. New York State and its localities should have the right to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of our communities.

Indeed, many states already set the conditions by which they allow reciprocity with other states. New York does not allow concealed carry reciprocity with any other state; that was determined by the state legislature and has proven to work well for the citizens of NY.

In fact, New York State's strong gun laws and our low gun ownership rate (18%) have resulted in our state having the third lowest gun death rate in the nation. We had 49 gun-homicides in Buffalo last year. Why subject us to more guns?

Federal preemption of New York's concealed carry law would create potentially life-threatening situations for law enforcement officers. During traffic stops, it would be nearly impossible for police to verify the validity of more than 50 different carry permits, forcing officers to make split-second decisions for their own safety in already tense and dangerous situations.

We need fewer guns on our streets, not more. "It's a nightmare for New York law enforcement," said Senator Charles Schumer of New York. "In 20 states you can have a repeated history of mental health

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police visits and you can get a gun. You can have a domestic violence record. In many states, people subject to emergency orders of protection can be allowed to carry.”

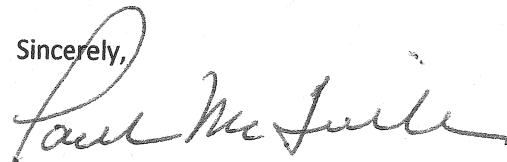
Gun licenses should not be treated as driver’s licenses. Unlike drivers’ licenses, there is no universal standard or protocol to easily and consistently verify the veracity and authenticity of a concealed carry permit held by an out-of-state visitor.

In Mississippi, one only needs to apply to receive a concealed carry permit. In Virginia, an on-line course can get you one; you don’t even have to live in Florida to get a license there, you just have to send in the fee.

We urge you to go on record, as a Council and individually, to oppose Federally Mandated Concealed Carry legislation (S.498 or H.R.402).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul McQuillen  
Upstate Coordinator  
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

cc: Hon. Byron Brown, Mayor of Buffalo  
Buffalo Common Council Members

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