

Federally Mandated Concealed Carry: The Impact on Your State

H.R. 986 would force every state to recognize concealed carry permits issued by any other state. This proposal would infringe on each state's ability to take the steps necessary to protect its own citizens and public safety.

Supporters believe that concealed carry permit holders are always law-abiding, stable citizens who should be trusted to carry loaded, concealed handguns in public. They are wrong. Research from the Violence Policy Center (VPC) shows that individuals with permits to carry concealed handguns frequently perpetrate murders, suicides, and even mass shootings — and all too often their guns are accessed by children who kill themselves or others in tragic unintentional shootings.

THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 986 would override existing state laws by forcing all states to recognize the concealed handgun permits issued by any other state.

HOW THIS WOULD AFFECT YOUR STATE

Some states have rigorous standards for issuing concealed carry permits, while others issue permits with minimal oversight. In many states, concealed carry permits have been granted to domestic abusers and other criminals, the severely mentally ill, and suicidal individuals, among others.

Some states do not extend reciprocity to permits issued by any other state, allowing only their own residents to carry concealed handguns within their borders. And while some states do recognize out-of-state permits, they have the power to decide with which states they have such agreements.

Mandated national concealed carry legislation would eliminate a state's discretion over who can carry guns in public within its own borders, effectively making the weakest state law the law of the land.

For example, California now has extremely strong restrictions in place on who can obtain a permit. California also does not recognize permits issued by any other state. Mandated national concealed carry would force California to allow out-of-state individuals to carry handguns with permits issued by states such as Florida, where there are very few standards as to who can obtain a permit. Florida, like many other states, also issues permits to out-of-state residents. As a result, California state officials would no longer have the authority they need to ensure the safety of their citizens.

INCIDENTS OF FATAL NON-SELF DEFENSE SHOOTINGS INVOLVING PERSONS WITH PERMITS TO CARRY CONCEALED HANDGUNS ISSUED BY OTHER STATES

North Dakota, May 2015:

Concealed handgun permit holder Lance Rick shot and killed his wife before turning the gun on himself. The couple had separated and Rick had flown from Washington with his gun. Rick had permits issued by North Dakota and Utah.

Idaho, December 2014:

Concealed handgun permit holder Veronica Rutledge was unintentionally shot and killed by her two-year-old son while shopping at a Walmart. The boy found Rutledge's gun in her purse. She had a permit issued by the state of Washington.

Pennsylvania, February 2011:

Concealed handgun permit holder Danny Kirtley fatally shot Trevor Compton after a work-related dispute at the welding shop where they both worked. Kirtley had a concealed carry permit from Texas.

Florida, August 2009:

Concealed handgun permit holder Humberto Delgado shot and killed a Tampa police corporal who was responding to a suspicious person call. Delgado had a concealed carry permit issued in North Carolina.

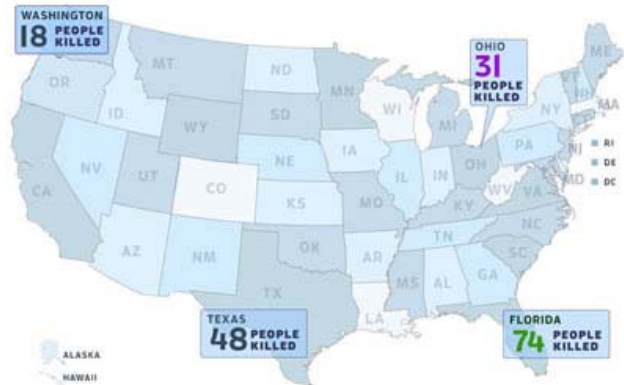
CONCEALED CARRY KILLERS

VPC research shows that concealed carry permits are not just issued to “law-abiding citizens” or stable individuals. In fact, permit holders frequently perpetrate murders, suicides, and unintentional shootings.

The VPC’s ongoing *Concealed Carry Killers* project (concealedcarrykillers.org) keeps track of hundreds of examples of fatal non-self defense incidents involving individuals with concealed carry permits. Detailed information on many of these incidents is online and organized by state. A few of these examples are listed in the box on the previous page.

The VPC has found there have been at least 873 people killed by concealed carry killers since May 2007. In that time frame, there have been at least 29 mass shootings perpetrated by concealed carry killers, resulting in the deaths of 139 victims. Concealed carry permit holders have also been responsible for the deaths of at least 17 law enforcement officers.

Because there is no comprehensive recordkeeping or database of concealed carry incidents and many states in fact bar the release of such information, the VPC has compiled its database of fatal concealed carry incidents primarily from news reports. The total number of people killed by permit holders is almost certainly far higher.



TELL YOUR LAWMAKERS: REJECT MANDATED NATIONAL CONCEALED CARRY

Mandated national concealed carry would undermine states’ ability to protect their own citizens from gun violence and would present a serious threat to public safety. Lawmakers should be urged to reject this misguided and harmful proposal.

For more information, visit the Violence Policy Center’s Concealed Carry Killers database at concealedcarrykillers.org. Or contact VPC Legislative Director Kristen Rand at (202)-822-8200 x 102, krand@vpc.org.