

## **Constitutional Carry (SB 565) Draft Letters to the Editor** **Versions 1 – 6 included below**

### **Version 1:**

After listening to the governor vent a week or so ago about needing more gun control, even though we have 148 pages in the laws relating to guns book that I just got from my state legislator, I decided to look and see how many gun laws have been proposed this session. These anti-gun groups want 75 more gun control laws!

Constitutional Carry does not now, nor will it ever, allow prohibited persons the legal standing to carry a concealed firearm on their person, or loaded in a vehicle. The anti-gun voices, are well paid lobbyists funded by influential out of State gun grabbing billionaires, that shout out “Wild West”, and “blood in the streets” are doing nothing but completely ignoring some crucial facts.

The Bill very simply makes a permission slip from the State a thing of the past. In order to lawfully buy a firearm, one must pass a background check. That very same background check is performed a second time if a person desires to receive a License to Carry Firearms from the Commonwealth.

The duplication of effort causes considerable work for the County Sherriff, and for the Pennsylvania Instant Check System. And of course, we, the taxpayers pay for securing the same information twice.

I support Constitutional Carry as do other honest, law-abiding citizens, who only want to protect themselves and their family.

### **Version 2:**

I write to you today to support Pennsylvania Senate Bill 565, called alternately Constitutional Carry, or Permitless Carry.

This bill does not now, nor will it ever, allow prohibited persons the legal standing to carry a concealed firearm on their person, or loaded in a vehicle. Well-funded out of State gun grabbers, that shout out “Wild West”, and “blood in the streets” are doing nothing but completely ignoring some crucial facts.

The Bill is two tiered. If you carry only in Pennsylvania, you need no permission slip from government. The option for a License to Carry Firearms is retained so that if a LTCF is needed to take advantage of another State’s reciprocity agreement with Pennsylvania, that option is available.

These same groups, funded largely by strident anti-gun and anti-Freedom Bloomberg and George Soros, continue to sow the seeds of discontent with outright lies. Let’s not forget that the same anti-gun mindset said that the LTCF law would not work in 1998. Today Pennsylvania has 1.52 million citizens carrying a concealed firearm, and unmitigated success.

Further, let’s consider that twenty-one states place no restriction on carrying a firearm, concealed or openly, right now with some doing it for decades. Those States do not have blood running in the streets, and Vermont is hardly the Wild West.

Please join honest, law-abiding citizens, in supporting SB 565.

### **Version 3:**

I listened to the governor on October 26<sup>th</sup> throw truth and facts out the window regarding gun ownership and gun safety and what the Pennsylvania Senate is proposing to do with Constitutional Carry! What do we pay him for if his staff and even himself can't do the bare necessity of looking into the facts of an issue?

A simple search for me turned up this study: Do Right-to-Carry Concealed Weapons Laws Still Reduce Crime?

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3850436](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3850436)

Is the governor so blinded by his bias that he is willing to risk the rights and safety of law-abiding citizens in Pennsylvania? For money or influence peddling with billionaires who fund the gun control movement?

Pennsylvania's Constitution is clear. In our Declaration of Rights, Article 1, Section 21 says "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."

Consider that twenty-one states place no restriction on carrying a concealed firearm. Those States do not have blood running in the streets, and Vermont is hardly the Wild West.

Please join honest, law-abiding citizens, in supporting Constitutional Carry and the safety of citizens over criminals.

#### **Version 4:**

I'm writing this because I'm very disappointed in the governor being in bed with anti-gun groups who have fanned the flames of fear without substance!

Pennsylvania's Constitution is clear. In our Declaration of Rights, Article 1, Section 21 says "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State SHALL NOT BE QUESTIONED."

Consider that twenty-one States place no restriction on carrying a concealed firearm. Those States do not have blood running in the streets, and Vermont is hardly the Wild West.

The twenty-one States that currently recognize the right to keep and bear arms are, as of June 16, 2021, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Pennsylvania's Declaration of Rights predates the United States Constitution. Its time to put our right to keep and bear arms upon the pedestal it so richly deserves.

Please join with me and other honest, law-abiding citizens, in supporting the common-sense self-defense safety measure, Constitutional Carry, that has a proven track record of success!

#### **Version 5:**

I saw on TV that about a week ago the governor decided to side with anti-gun organizations over the rights of law-abiding citizens and their safety.

It is incomprehensible to me that they can portray this bill that is identical to measures that exist and 21 other states as somehow allowing prohibited persons the legal standing to carry a concealed firearm on their person, or loaded in a vehicle. These highly paid voices of fear and discontent, funded by influential out of State gun grabbers, that shout out “Wild West”, and “blood in the streets” are doing nothing but completely ignoring some crucial facts.

The Bill very simply makes a permission slip from the State a thing of the past. In order to lawfully buy a firearm, one must pass a background check. That very same background check is performed a second time if a person desires to receive a License to Carry Firearms from the Commonwealth.

The duplication of effort causes considerable work for the County Sherriff, and for the Pennsylvania Instant Check System. And of course, we, the taxpayers pay for securing the same information twice.

After 90 years of ever-increasing gun control in Pennsylvania perhaps the governor should be more concerned with the costs to Pennsylvanians of gun control instead of worrying about Pennsylvanians with firearms?!

#### **Version 6:**

On October 26<sup>th</sup> Governor Wolf railed against the Senate for considering common sense laws that work to reduce crime and make people safer while at the same time ignoring the fact that current gun laws are ignored by many prosecutors putting criminals back on the streets.

Constitutional carry is currently in 21 states and despite the protestations of the ill-informed anti-gun groups that cozy up to Gov. Wolf, it is working to reduce crime and is by any measure of success! All one has to do is look at the real science by real academics and one will see exactly how well it's performing: **Four of the top 5 safest states in America (Vermont, Maine, Utah and Wyoming)** all provide for Constitutional or permitless carry. 2020's top 10 safest states included, SIX with Constitutional Carry and all 21 states that have Constitutional Carry have seen their violent crime rates go down. The study below demonstrates an 'inconvenient truth' on the efficacy of self-defense and the gaps in research by 'some' academics on the gun-control side:

- Do Right-to-Carry Concealed Weapons Laws Still Reduce Crime?
- [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3850436](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3850436)

When is Gov. Wolf going to start doing his own homework instead of relying on well-funded anti-gun groups that have been wrong at every point in their agenda?