



LCAV Statement on U.S. Senate's Defeat of Dangerous Concealed Weapons Legislation

July 22, 2009

In a closely watched vote earlier today, the U.S. Senate rejected a measure that would have drastically reduced the ability of states to limit the carrying of concealed firearms. Introduced by Senator John Thune (R-South Dakota) as an amendment to a defense spending bill, the measure would have required the 48 states that allow the carrying of concealed handguns to recognize concealed carry licenses issued by other states.

This forced "reciprocity" would have been dangerous because of the wide gulf between states that have tough requirements for concealed carry licenses and those that have almost no requirements. States like California, for example, give law enforcement agencies important discretion over the issuance of licenses and only issue licenses to persons who demonstrate "good cause." California also prohibits many misdemeanants from possessing firearms or acquiring licenses. A majority of other states, in contrast, have very minimal standards for the issuance of concealed carry licenses and many only disqualify persons prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms.

Although the Thune Amendment received an alarming 58 votes, the Senate had previously agreed that 60 votes would be needed for passage in order to avoid a threatened filibuster. Twenty Democrats, including Majority Leader Harry Reid, voted in favor of the amendment. A full breakdown of how Senators voted on the measure can be found [here](#).

LCAV worked with a national coalition of gun violence prevention groups to fight this dangerous legislation. We are relieved by this outcome, and will continue to champion common sense gun policy nationwide.

For more information about concealed carry laws around the nation, see our [Carrying Concealed Weapons summary](#).