

August 19, 2020

The House Select Committee on Mass Violence Prevention and Community Safety  
Attn: Laramie Stroud

Dear Ms. Stroud,

I am using a GOA policy statement to set forth my beliefs on the need for constitutional carry in Texas and the need to reassess the laws regarding the prohibition of firearms in certain places.

### **Constitutional Carry**

- Allows those who may legally possess a handgun to carry it open or concealed without a license
- **Is recognized by over a fourth of US states (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) -- with more added each year. Over 30 states allow unlicensed open carry.**
- **Makes people safer: "The five states in 2013 that allowed concealed carry without a permit had much lower murder and violent crime rates than the five jurisdictions with the lowest permit rates. Indeed, the murder rate was 33 percent lower in the states not requiring permits. The violent crime rate was 32 percent lower." (Crime Prevention Research Center, [www.crimeresearch.org](http://www.crimeresearch.org))**
- Repeals Jim Crow-era prohibitions (current law prohibiting handgun carry dates to the 1860's with racist roots)
- Does not allow prohibited people (such as gang members and felons) to carry handguns
- Maintains the licensing process as an option for those who choose to obtain a license to carry
- **Upholds the right to life and the right to self-defense -- fundamental rights which should not be denied any citizen who can legally own a handgun**

### **Repeal of Prohibited Places**

Current law prohibits carry of firearms in certain places. This creates an unsafe environment where only criminals are armed.

Criminals often choose “gun-free zones” when committing violent crime. In fact, 97.3% of mass shootings from 1950 through April 2018 were in places where law-abiding citizens were prohibited from carrying firearms. Felons have stated that they were less likely to commit a crime if they knew there was a chance that someone was armed -- and much less likely if they actually saw a weapon. Armed citizens save lives. Repealing “gun-free zones” allows law-abiding citizens tools to defend themselves and others.

We support repeal of government-mandated “gun-free zones” as an effective way to increase public safety and uphold the individual right to carry a firearm.

We also support private property rights and uphold property owners’ right prohibit carry on their property if they choose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Glenn G. Wright