

060506weaponsbill

From: Lopez, Chris [Chris.Lopez@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 12:21 PM
To: xxxxxxxx@bighammer.net
Cc: Brickner, Darcie
Subject: RE: Allen introduces weapons bill

David,
I apologize for the delayed response. I just got back in town. While I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you on numerous occasions, due to a recent personnel shake up in the office Darcie Brickner now handles gun rights for Mr. Davis. I will brief her on our efforts to resolve the inequities of our laws governing gun carry in national parks. I will also ask her to take a look into the bill you mentioned below. Thanks for all your work in our community and hope all is well.

Christopher Lopez
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Office of Congressman Tom Davis
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Washington, D.C. 20515
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---Acta Non Verba---
"Deeds Not Words"

-----Original Message-----

From: xxxxxx@bighammer.net
Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2006 10:29 AM
To: Lopez, Chris
Subject: FW: Allen introduces weapons bill

Chris,

It's been a while since we spoke last. The below article references bills in the House and Senate which would establish standards by which states would recognize a permit to carry a handgun in state other your home state if you had a permit or license to carry it. I expect to see bipartisan support for this bill, as well as support from the professional law enforcement lobby. Prior to the passage of HR218, law enforcement officers from out of state were breaking the law in states they were visiting which prohibited carrying weapons. HR218 had broad bipartisan support, as should Representative Stearns and Senator Allen's bill.

There is already quite a burgeoning industry of training to support licensing requirements already in place. Contrary to what Mr. Sollo says below, except for Vermont and Alaska, all the states with legislation supporting right to carry have training requirements. I myself teach people how to shoot, and the classes I teach qualify successful students for a Virginia concealed handgun permit. Virginia concealed handgun permit holders have a lower criminal conviction percentage rate than law enforcement officers.

While I firmly support the right of citizens of states to elect their own government to reflect their own values, I do not support the regimes in place in areas like New Jersey, New York and Washington, DC who not only trample the rights of their citizens, but actually violate federal law commonly known as the "Firearms Owner's Protection Act" (FOPA) which grants unfettered transportation of a firearm in transit. Further, these governmental entities are restrictive to otherwise law abiding travelers and are frankly not reflective of the values of the constituents of their states. These 2 bills would not trample the self determination of state governments who hold the rights of citizens to bear arms in contempt, these

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bills would prevent law abiding citizens from being victimized by overzealous and overreaching laws that put citizens at risk.

This nation is at war with an enemy that prefers to remain anonymous, non-descript and to quote President Bush "a faceless coward". The first responder to terrorist attacks is not a police officer, not a firefighter, not an EMT. The first responder is a citizen and citizens should have the same right to defend themselves and others as an out of state corrections officer.

My wife Carol and I would like Congressman Davis to co-sponsor Representative Stearns bill. Additionally, we ask that he support Representative Cliff Stearns companion bill / Senator Allen's bill as is appropriate should one pass and not the other, etc. Congressman Davis has been of tremendous support in assisting my comrades and I in getting the National Parks to do likewise in recognizing the citizen's right to self defense. We are both grateful for his strong support in this matter - and yours too Chris. We look forward to Congressman Davis's support on this critical matter.

Best regards

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Jackson

Sent: Sunday, June 04, 2006 9:56 AM

To: alerts@vcdl.org; Bob & Ginger; Dave Yates; Henry Heymering; Pete Clark gun list; Philip Van Cleave; Robert (Pop) Jackson; Sandy

Subject: Allen introduces weapons bill

http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&%09s=1045855935264&c=MGArticle&cid=1149188229894&path=!news!politics

<http://tinyurl.com/guq33>

Allen introduces weapons bill

Measure would require states to recognize one another's concealed-firearms permits

BY PETER HARDIN

TIMES-DISPATCH WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

Sunday, June 4, 2006

WASHINGTON - People with permits from one state to carry a concealed firearm would generally be able to exercise that right elsewhere under a bill introduced quietly by Sen. George Allen.

"The bill would simply require states to recognize each other's concealed-carry permits and licenses, just as they recognize drivers' licenses," Allen, R-Va., said in a statement in the Congressional Record when he introduced the bill May 26.

Allen's office issues frequent news releases about his bills and views on important topics, but didn't issue one when the concealed-weapons bill was introduced.

"He's trying to shore up his base with the [National Rifle Association] people," contended Jim Sollo, executive director of

Virginians Against Handgun Violence.

"Why not do it early in the campaign and kind of quietly, before the heat of the election campaign?" Sollo said yesterday.

Allen is running for a second term. Democrats Harris Miller and James Webb are vying in a June 13 primary for the nomination to run against him.

John Reid, Allen's communications director, said he held off issuing a news release when the bill was introduced because Allen was departing for overseas. Reid said he wanted to issue a release when Allen would be present to answer news media questions about the bill.

In his statement introducing the bill, Allen said it was a companion to one introduced in the House by Reps. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., and Rick Boucher, D-9th.

"The right-to-carry movement has enjoyed great success throughout our nation," Allen said. In Virginia, he said, the murder rate has plunged 40 percent since a right-to-carry law that he signed as governor took effect in 1995.

There were 8.7 murders per 100,000 Virginia residents in 1994 and 5.2 murders per 100,000 in 2005, according to data from FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Allen's office said Friday.

The 1995 law was written to make it easier for Virginians to carry concealed weapons. Advocates for gun rights sought it to revoke judges' discretion in awarding the permits.

Sollo of Virginians Against Handgun Violence said his group would oppose Allen's Senate bill, based on what he knew about it so far.

Standards for permits to carry a concealed weapon differ from state to state so there would be no way to determine, in the case of a permit-holder coming to Virginia from elsewhere, what training he had with his weapon, Sollo said.

He also questioned how Virginia State Police would verify the validity of an individual's permit issued by another state.

Allen said May 26 his bill had 12 co-sponsors, including Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb. The other 11 are Republicans.

Republican Reps. Jo Ann Davis of the 1st District, J. Randy Forbes of the 4th and Virgil H. Goode Jr. of the 5th are among 69 co-sponsors of the House bill.

Contact staff writer Peter Hardin at phardin@mediageneral.com or (202) 662-7669.

This story can be found at:

http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&%09s=1045855935264&c=MGArticle&cid=1149188229894&path=!news!politics