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April 4, 2008

Dr. Robert D. Butler
Vice President
GrassRoots GunRights
P.O. Box 2446
Lexington, SC 29071

Re: H. 3212, the South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Reciprocity Bill

Dear Dr. Butler:

I have reviewed the concealed weapons permit (“CWP”) reciprocity bill, H. 3212, currently pending in the South Carolina General Assembly. I have also reviewed your analysis of the bill as amended by the Senate together with your own proposed amendments memorialized in your letter of March 24, 2008.

I entirely agree with your conclusion that the Senate amendment to the CWP reciprocity bill is far too narrow. As drafted, the Senate amendment seems to provide that other states could only obtain CWP reciprocity with South Carolina if these states allow exactly one method by which a concealed weapons permit may be obtained: a firearms training course.

This is problematic because many states, South Carolina included, allow persons to obtain permits through routes other than a training course. For example, active duty military and military reservists may obtain a permit without a training course in South Carolina. This makes sense: members of the military are required by their jobs to have facility with handguns. But a state that allowed such an alternate route to obtaining a concealed weapons permit would not qualify for reciprocity under the Senate amendment to the CWP reciprocity bill for the reasons in your letter. You are absolutely right that a state with CWP laws identical to South Carolina’s would not qualify for reciprocity with South Carolina.

A very simple amendment to the reciprocity bill would fix the bill’s flaws. The amendment you have proposed solves these problems with the bill, and I hope the conference committee adopts your language. Your proposed amendment would repair an otherwise good bill and greatly benefit CWP holders in South Carolina and elsewhere.

With kindest regards, I remain,


J. TODD KINCANNON

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Very truly yours,



J. Todd Kincannon