

GrassRoots GunRights

P.O. Box 2446 Lexington, SC 29071 <http://www.SCFirearms.org>

March 7, 2011

An Open Letter to the House Judiciary Committee and Sponsors of H. 3292

Our SC Supreme Court spoke clearly on the issue of handguns and young adults 18 to 20 years old when it stated **“the state constitution [SC Const. Art. XVII, § 14] precludes the General Assembly from prohibiting this age group's possession of handguns.”** See *State v. Bolin*, 378 S.C. 96; 662 S.E.2d 38 (2008). Because the Viers amendment passed by the General Laws subcommittee and the Viers amendment alleged to be proposed to replace the first Viers amendment both fail to treat young adults 18 to 20 years old as equally as adults 21 years old and older are treated, they are both unconstitutional.

SC Constitution Article I, § 3 clearly states “nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws.” Because the Viers amendment passed by the General Laws subcommittee treats out of state residents without a concealed weapon permit differently than SC residents without a concealed weapon permit, treats *legal* non US citizens differently than SC residents, and treats young adults 18 to 20 years old differently than adults 21 years old and older, it is unconstitutional. The amendment Viers allegedly will propose to replace his first amendment continues to violate the right to “the equal protection of the laws” for young adults 18 to 20 years old.

Out of state gun owners, *legal* non US citizens, and young adults 18 to 20 years old are minorities. They do not have the political power to protect their constitutional rights. But, *their* constitutional rights are important because *our* constitutional rights are important.

GrassRoots GunRights can not support violating the constitutional rights of minorities just because the majority is promised some extra goodies in return. It is a matter of principle.

GrassRoots GunRights respectfully requests that all constitutional violations of the rights of gun owners be removed from H. 3292 - a bill that contained no unconstitutional violations of our rights until it was amended with the Viers amendment. Then, and only then, can GrassRoots GunRights support H. 3292.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Butler, J.D.
Vice President
GrassRoots GunRights