

GrassRoots GunRights

P.O. Box 2446
Lexington, SC 29071

January 25, 2011

The Honorable Thad T. Viers
SC House of Representatives
PO Box 11687
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: H. 3405

Dear Representative Viers,

GrassRoots GunRights is pleased to see elected representatives finally acknowledge in H. 3405 that the list of prohibited carry locations imposed upon concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders is unreasonable and needs to be abolished. Unfortunately, H. 3405 does absolutely nothing to help protect the safety of the good people in South Carolina. Rather, H. 3405 is another example of self serving politicians thinking they are better than the rest of the people, and that politicians are above the rule of law that governs the rest of the people. Thus, GrassRoots GunRights strongly opposes H. 3405, and requests this subcommittee kill H. 3405. GrassRoots GunRights urges this subcommittee to instead wait and pass a bill that repeals the prohibited CWP carry restrictions for all CWP holders.

H. 3405 will allow politicians to carry in schools, restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages, churches, day care facilities, high school and college football games, publicly owned buildings, court houses and court rooms, polling places, doctor's offices, hospitals, private residences without prior permission, and even into posted businesses. But, H. 3405 will do absolutely nothing for the rest of the people. GrassRoots GunRights agrees with the message in H. 3405 that there is no legitimate public safety benefit in prohibiting CWP holders from carrying in these locations. But, GrassRoots GunRights opposes eliminating these prohibitions only for politicians while forcing the rest of us to live under those very same laws that politicians think are too dangerous and unreasonable for them to abide by.

After the recent AZ shootings, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul wrote about the "growing perception that politicians view their own lives as far more important than the lives of ordinary citizens." H. 3405 is a perfect example of why people have such a perception. Too many politicians forget they are public servants, not our lords and masters. While such a statement may sound extreme, there is no other explanation for H. 3405 - which abolishes all CWP prohibited carry restrictions for "any other elected or appointed public official", but not a single one for the rest of us. Politicians need to remember they are not a special ruling class overseeing us mere peasants.

We once had statesmen who lived by the philosophy of "We hold these truths to be self-evident,

that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These words from the Declaration of Independence reveal a strength of character of which we can all be proud.

Unfortunately, we now have too many politicians who live by the philosophy espoused by the pigs in George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* of “All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.” George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* exposes how some politicians use the power of their office to grant special privileges to themselves.

H. 3405 sinks to the level of the pigs in *Animal Farm*. H. 3405 is not a bill inspired by the high ideals found in the Declaration of Independence. Instead, H. 3405 seeks to make public servants “more equal” than the rest of us by allowing politicians to grant themselves special privileges unavailable to the rest of us. This is wrong.

Public servants with CWP’s are no different - or better - than the rest of us who have CWP’s in South Carolina. We all had to provide proof of training. We all had to pass the same SLED and FBI background checks. CWP holders have been certified as - and have proven to be - “the good guys.” It is a sad state of affairs when the idea that public servants are “more equal” than the rest of us is alive and well in South Carolina, and the idea that “all men are created equal” is a distant memory.

This is not the first time this bill has been introduced. GrassRoots led the fight to kill similarly worded bills in the last two sessions (H. 4112 last session and H. 4243 the session before last). Unfortunately, the idea that politicians are better than the rest of us has risen again in H. 3405, and needs to be killed again this year.

GrassRoots urges the members of the General Laws subcommittee to demonstrate statesmanship and vote to support the high ideal that “all men are created equal” by killing H. 3405. Let us not sink to the level espoused by the pigs in Orwell’s *Animal Farm*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Rentiers III". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William Rentiers III
Executive Officer