

GrassRoots GunRights

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

April 18, 2007

The Honorable Scott Talley
South Carolina House of Representatives
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: H. 3528

Dear Representative Talley,

As you may know, SLED currently maintains a list of all persons to whom they have issued a Concealed Weapon Permit. The data SLED maintains includes information such as a CWP holder's name, address and other personal information. H. 3528 would amend Section 23-31-215 to restrict the release of this list to law enforcement agencies only and then only to aid in official investigations.

Recently an editorial writer for the Roanoke Times obtained a similar list of Virginia CWP holder information from authorities and published the names and addresses in the newspaper. The release of such private information can have many unwanted consequences. Allowing the public to access this private information could lead to thieves targeting the homes of CWP holders in order to steal firearms. It could facilitate attempts to ostracize those who are on the list within the community by those who object to firearms and their use.

It is for reasons such as these that GrassRoots believes the CWP holder information maintained by SLED should remain strictly private. We urge you to please adopt H. 3528.

In the past, GrassRoots has obtained this list and was able to increase membership roles as a result. Even though we have benefitted from the ability obtain this information, we still support keeping the information private because it is the right thing to do. GrassRoots argued for maintaining the privacy of CWP holder information years ago when the CWP law was first enacted, but we were met with resistance by certain lawmakers. Now that GrassRoots has been able to use this information to our benefit, perhaps H.3528 will gain support from those same legislators. We are left with one question. What should be the penalty for violation of this section?

Sincerely,



William W. Rentiers III
Executive Officer
GrassRoots GunRights of SC