

GrassRoots GunRights

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

March 2, 2010

Rep. Bruce Bannister
South Carolina House of Representatives
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Re: H. 4112

Dear Rep. Bannister:

GrassRoots GunRights is pleased to see some elected representatives are finally seeing the prohibited carry restrictions placed upon concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders are unreasonable and need to be abolished. But sadly, too many of these politicians also think they are a special ruling class overseeing us mere peasants. While such a statement sounds extreme, there is no other explanation for H. 4112 - which abolishes all CWP prohibited carry restrictions for politicians, but not a single one for the rest of us.

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 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 politicians use the power of their office to grant themselves special privileges unavailable to others.

H. 4112 sinks to the level of the pigs in *Animal Farm*. H. 4112 is not a bill inspired by the ideals found in the Declaration of Independence. H. 4112 seeks to make politicians "more equal" than the rest of us by allowing these politicians to grant themselves special privileges unavailable to the rest of us. This is wrong.

This is not the first time this bill has been introduced. GrassRoots led the fight to kill the similarly worded H. 4243 last session. But, unfortunately, H. 4243 has risen again as H. 4112 and needs to be killed again this year just as it was last session.

How Orwellian that at least one of the co-sponsors of last session's H. 4243 (which would have allowed politicians to actually carry *in* schools), failed to support H. 3964 (which would have allowed a CWP holder to possess a handgun on school property *only if* contained inside a closed

glove box, console, or trunk so as to allow parents with CWPs to drop off and pick up their children from school). Thankfully, a limited school firearm possession law was enacted last year.

H. 4112 will allow legislators to carry a gun anywhere in South Carolina. GrassRoots doubts the law will be interpreted such that legislators are considered to be carrying out the duties of their office only Tuesdays through Thursdays six months of the year while on the capitol grounds. GrassRoots sees this law being bent such that any activity will be interpreted as “constituent service” or “research” so as to justify politicians being allowed to carry anywhere 24/7/365, which will include restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages, schools, and all publicly owned buildings. GrassRoots opposes the idea of special first class citizenship for politicians while relegating the rest of us to second class citizenship.

GrassRoots does not subscribe to the pigs’ belief from Orwell’s *Animal Farm* that some “are more equal than others.” Rather, GrassRoots believes - as did our founding fathers - that “all men are created equal.” In keeping with the lofty principle that “all men are created equal,” GrassRoots opposes any bill that does not allow every South Carolina CWP holder to carry wherever a member of the General Assembly who has a CWP is allowed to carry.

Politicians with CWPs are no different - or better - than the rest of us who have CWPs 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 politicians 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.

GrassRoots urges the members of the General Laws subcommittee to demonstrate statesmanship and vote to support the ideal that “all men are created equal” by either killing H. 4112, or amending H. 4112 to repeal CWP prohibited carry locations for all CWP holders and not just politicians. Let us not fall to the level espoused by the pigs in Orwell’s *Animal Farm*.

Sincerely,



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