

Putting Teeth Into Concealed Carry

Grass Roots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181

Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Internet: <http://www.netside.com/~lcoble/grsc>

September, 1997

GRSC Advisory Committee

Ralph Baker
Tom Burkizer
Clyde T. Bullard
Robert D. Butler
Linda Chico
Larry Coble
Rick Daniel
John Hutchins
Bill Osborne
Charlie Robinette
Jeffery M. Wells

Who We Are and Our Purpose

Modeled after similar organizations in other states, Grass Roots South Carolina is a joint project of **Mid-Carolina Rifle Club** and **Gun Owners of South Carolina**. Our primary goal is to protect the rights of law abiding citizens who have chosen to obtain concealed weapons permits.

Our main effort is in educating merchants who post against concealed weapons. Our operating protocol is included in this newsletter and explains how our organization works. Briefly, we initially contact merchants who have posted signs against concealed weapons and attempt to educate

them. Afterwards, we hope that they will either remove their signs or post an alternative sign which we provide. If they do neither we distribute the name of the business to thousands of South Carolinians via gun clubs, hunt clubs, shooting sports associations, business supporters, wildlife groups, the Internet, and any other available means encouraging a voluntary boycott until the signs come down.

We have had cards printed for those of you that want to report businesses that are posting signs against concealed carry permit holders. Also, we have already launched notice of our organization in several firearms related newsletters, concealed weapons classes, as well as publicly to outline our goals. The idea is to make this a true grass roots effort in organization from our end as well as the public's. A web page has been constructed and is available for public browsing. The page includes legislative updates, a large Second Amendment Library, and information on how to support GRSC as well as a listing of those retail establishments that post against concealed weapons permit holders.

If you are interested in being a part of this effort and would like more information regarding this grass

roots effort please contact us we will place you on the supporter list. Also, we need to build the database of those businesses which have been spotted by our supporters with "no carry" postings. If you have seen such a business please mail us and let us know so we can initiate correspondence with them to change or remove their signs. With your help we can succeed.

**You may visit Grass Roots
South Carolina Online at:**
<http://www.netside.com/~lcoble/grsc/>

Welcome Back Lowe's Hardware

Many of you may have read about Lowe's Hardware removing their signs prohibiting concealed weapons in their stores. The reported story says that Corporate Headquarters acted after receiving a letter from an individual located in North Carolina. We appreciate Lowes Corporation's action in this matter and pat ourselves on the back as well for sending in all of those Lowes Customer Survey forms which we distributed at various shooting sports organization and membership meetings during the last several months!

GRASS ROOTS SOUTH CAROLINA
HELP PUT TEETH INTO CONCEALED CARRY
SUPPORT GRSC

Here is how the system works and how you can help:

1. When you encounter a business which posts, politely ask for the manager. Explain that they have nothing to fear from permit holders, that they have in effect posted an open invitation to armed robbery, endangered your safety, and that you will not spend money in their establishment as long as they prohibit concealed carry. You may add you intend to turn their name into GRSC for addition to the boycott list.
2. Obtain and send to GRSC the COMPLETE business name, address (including zip code), phone number, and name of the manager or owner.
3. Although we will accept the information from anyone, in any format, we ask you to use GRSC "Don't Buy" Cards for this purpose. These are wallet-sized cards, half of which you give to the merchant to notify them of the items in (1) above. The other half contains blanks for information on the business. Fill it in and send it to us. The "Don't Buy" cards have the advantage of demonstrating to the business that they are being subjected to an organized boycott rather than a small scale, piecemeal effort. Information on obtaining cards is below. Please help us out by ordering the GRSC "Don't Buy" cards.
4. GRSC will send the merchant a letter explaining our position in a non-threatening and tactful manner. The letter will point out that the merchant has made himself a target for robbery as well as increased the danger for every customer that shops at their business. Also contained in the letter will be one of our alternative window stickers that states, "No firearms allowed except by law enforcement and duly licensed permit holders."
5. After receiving our letter we will check back with the merchant to see if they have removed the "No firearms allowed" signs or replaced them with our signs. If they have, then no action is taken. If they do not comply, the merchant is notified that they will be boycotted. They will also receive instructions on how to get off the GRSC "Don't Buy" list.
6. We will compile the list of businesses, update it monthly, and distribute it via gun shops, gun shows, concealed handgun classes, the Internet, fax, wildlife clubs, and all other available means.
7. We will monitor businesses which remove signs for "cheating." Any merchant who cheats by returning signs after advising us of removal will be subject to a mandatory one year boycott.
8. Don't buy from merchants who post! This effort will succeed only if we make it hurt!
9. Help distribute the list of boycotted merchants, and the "Don't Buy" cards to others. Make sure all of your friends have at least one card with them at all times.
10. Cards are free! However, to help defray our costs we ask that you consider a small donation. Even a few dollars will help. Make checks payable to MCRC and put GRSC in the memo area and mail to:

GRSC

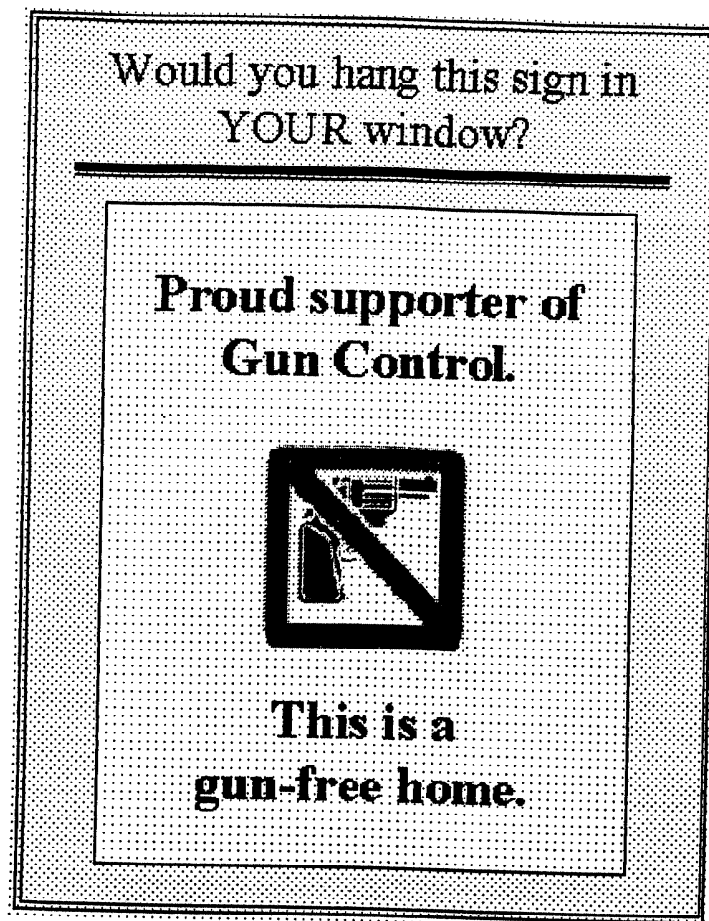
P.O. Box 1181

Sumter, SC 29151

Do you own a gun shop or range? Please give cards and distribute the "Don't Buy" list to customers!

Most importantly: REPORT MERCHANTS WHO POST!

Visit us on the Internet at: <http://www.netside.com/~lcoble/grsc>



Make a Better Choice!
Encourage Your Local Merchant to Use a GRSC Sign!

Did you know

In 1982, Kennesaw, Georgia, passed an ordinance "to provide for the civil defense of the City of Kennesaw, and further in order to provide for and protect the safety, security and general welfare of the City and its inhabitants." The ordinance states that "Every head of household residing in the City Limits of the City of Kennesaw is required to maintain a firearm, together with ammunition therefor," except criminals, persons with moral or religious objections, and those mentally or physically incapacitated.

Firearm ownership rates were not expected to change in Kennesaw after passage of the ordinance; most households were presumed to have firearms. Instead, it was expected that publicity surrounding the ordinance would warn criminals that residents were capable of protecting themselves and their community and would do so with the government's blessing. Between 1981-1985 violent crimes in Kennesaw dropped 71%; burglaries dropped 65%. Between 1981-1993, though Kennesaw's population doubled, burglaries dropped 16%.

Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151

**Our Current Alternative Sign
for Businesses Wishing to Post
a "No Firearms Allowed" Sign**

**Available sign from GRSC
self adhesive 4" X 7" with red letters on white background**

**No Firearms Permitted
except by
law enforcement
and those
legally licensed to carry
concealed handguns**

**and Our Two Part Cards:
(cut and fold this one until you can get some from us!)**

Dear Concerned Citizen:

When you encounter a business which posts against licensed concealed handguns, please tear off the bottom of this card and give to owner or manager. Fill out the reverse side of this card and send to:

Grass Roots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181
Sumter, SC 29151

We need full information.

If you think this is a worthwhile project, **WRITE US TO JOIN!**

**Grass Roots South Carolina
P.O. Box 1181
Sumter, SC 29151**

Dear Business Owner:

Grass Roots South Carolina has supported the new concealed handgun law to empower citizens to protect themselves. Therefore:

- Your business will be added to the **GRSC Don't Buy List** and distributed to thousands of gun owners via gun shops & shows, concealed handgun classes, the Internet, & other means.
- You have essentially posted an invitation to armed robbery. Therefore, I will no longer feel safe doing business here.
- For further information, please contact us:

Grass Roots South Carolina
P.O. Box 1181 • Sumter, SC 29151

We require **FULL** business info, including name of headquarters if part of chain.

BIZ NAME _____

ADDRESS (INCL. ZIP) _____

OWNER/MANAGER NAME _____

DATE POSTING NOTICE SEEN _____

RETURN TO GRSC AT ADDRESS ON OTHER SIDE

GRSC Legislative Issues:

After learning that South Carolina's Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation was providing "No Concealed Weapons Allowed" stickers at public expense to merchants, a letter was sent to Lewis F. Gossett, Director of LLR. The letter expressed displeasure at what seems to be an undermining of the Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act by none other than a Department within the South Carolina Government!

After you read their response, perhaps you would like to fire off a letter educating them on the differences between "law abiding citizen" and "criminal." Obviously they haven't read the Lott Report! Their response follows:



LLR

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION

David M. Beasley
Governor
Lewis F. Gossett
Director

Koger Office Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive
Post Office Box 11329
Columbia, SC 29211-1329
(803) 896-4300
FAX: (803) 896-4393

August 7, 1997

Thank you for your inquiry related to the concealed weapon signs provided by the Department to businesses. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how and why the department is involved.

The Citizen's Self-Defense Act of 1996 gives businesses the right to decide not to allow concealed weapons on their property. The Department was asked by the S.C. Chamber of Commerce to make available a poster to businesses who elect not to allow concealed weapons on their premises. The text of the poster was written by the Chamber's attorney and does not bear the Department's name.

Even before this request was made by the Chamber, one of the Division of Labor's responsibilities has been to distribute posters required for posting on issues such as job safety, wages, and child labor. As the enforcement agency for OSHA in South Carolina, we have a concern about violence in the workplace. Experience has shown that violent acts occur when someone brings a weapon into the workplace.

rest assured, the Department's role in concealed weapon signs is not an attempt at undermining the Citizen Self-Defense Act of 1996. We have been able to accommodate a request from business that is within the framework of the Act, while also taking a preventative measure in work place safety.

If you have any further questions, or if we may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 803-896-4382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Derrick Meggie".

R. Derrick Meggie
Agency Ombudsman

Someone needs to tell LLR it's not about the provisions of the Act! It's about using public funds to subsidize the anti-gun wishes of a private organization!

Letters to the Editor

(the views represented here do not necessarily represent the membership or staff of GRSC or its affiliated organizations)

WORDS OF WISDOM

by Senator H.L. Richardson

Compromise? It's regrettable the word compromise has been so convoluted, because there are two basic kinds, often incompatible with each other. One is a physical compromise, the other, one of principle.

Let me give several examples. My wife and I want to go to a movie. She wants to see a love-'em-up and I want to see a shoot-'em-up. We compromise and pay to see a comedy. My buddy and I are going hunting together. He wants to eat breakfast at the Road Kill Cafe and I want to dine at Mae's Country Kitchen. We compromise by eating at one on the way and the other coming back.

There is no real principle involved in either example, each of us might be put out a bit by not getting their own way but no harm occurs to either one's principles. "Giving in" and taking others into consideration is a proper attitude for harmonious relationships; we all do it constantly. There's not a marriage that can last more than two weeks if multitudinous physical compromises aren't made by both sides.

Physical compromise is a necessary good, often the mark of an understanding and gentle person.

On the other hand, compromising principle is another matter. Allowing oneself to be trapped into bargaining away rights is destructive to character and should be viewed as utter foolishness. When an anti-gun legislator presents a bad piece of legislation and then offers to water it down, he's not really compromising now, is he? We must always ask,

exactly what is being compromised? What is he giving up? That legislator first asks for 100 percent of our rights and then, through negotiation, takes only 10 percent. He may have compromised his original request, but we have forsaken principle by giving him that 10 percent.

If a thief sticks a gun in your ribs and demands your wallet, then decides, good naturedly, not to keep your credit cards and the pictures of your kids, no compromise is involved. He may be personable, even polite, but still a thief and you, the victim.

When the legislature decides to steal some of our rights and plans to use police force to accomplish it, what's the real difference between them and the thief? Darn little!

They hide behind the excuse that they're legislating democratically. The fact they do it by a majority vote has no moral significance whatsoever. Numerical might does not constitute right, no more than a lynch mob can justify its act because a majority participated.

Democratically, we elect men and women to office but we have to ask . . . to do what? To abrogate our rights? Restrict our freedom? Destroy our ability to protect our lives, family and property? The answer is a resounding NO!

We elect representatives to uphold the Constitution and to protect our rights, not to negotiate them away in the name of compromise and democracy. Our forefathers understood that certain rights were inalienable, God-given, untouchable by mere men. That's why they delineated these uncompromising principles in the Bill of Rights. They weren't kidding when they said it was necessary to "bind men down by the chains of a Constitution."

We, at Gun Owners of America, are often asked why we aren't more amenable, willing to compromise.

Our answer is that we are always willing to make concessions that are physical, but not of principle. When we politically compromise and allow anti-gun legislation to pass, no matter how insignificant it may appear to be, we have abdicated our responsibilities. Abdication is the work for surrendering our principles legislatively. Honor binds us to resist with all our might.

It is our duty to oppose ANY AND ALL attempts at watering down the principles embodied in the Second Amendment.

We are obligated by principle to vigorously oppose any move that diminishes the same freedom enjoyed by our fathers.

There are those in the gun movement who call out for pragmatism, bipartisan cooperation and dialogue with our opposition. It has been tried for decades and what has been our reward? Lost ground. Retreat. A few crumbs from the table. Many gun owners have been victims of their own decency, believing some hope exists in dealing with our implacable enemies. They have been intimidated by the names we are called when we refuse to abdicate our rights.

It's a mortal sin when a gun organization caves in and justifies any loss in the name of compromise. It's not compromise, it's abdication pure and simple; let's call it by its real name . . . abdication.

We should all concentrate on regaining the ground we have lost and begin by not giving another fraction of an inch. For those of us at Gun Owners of America, retreat is over.

**We Welcome Your
Opinions and Comments!**
Please send any material to
GRSC for inclusion in future
newsletters.

"UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES"

- A Review

GRSC Book Review

Forward: I would like to offer thanks to Bill Krupicka for recommending this and other fine works.

[Analysis] If you're looking for a riveting novel written by an author who loves firearms, shooting, and the American vision of freedom, *Unintended Consequences* is for you. Written by John Ross, whose previous writings include *Self-Defense Laws and Violent Crime Rates in the United States* and technical articles for *Machine Gun News*, the book centers around the twentieth century history of what Mr. Ross correctly dubs "the gun culture."

Tracing the roots of federal abuses, the novel begins in earnest with the United States government's deadly suppression of a group of military veterans known as the "Bonus Marchers" during the depression. It then puts faces and personalities to the inception of the federal government's first gun control legislation - the National Firearms Act of 1934.

Unintended Consequences is at its most winning, however, as it traces the life of Henry Bowman. Born in the 1950's, he grows up in the gun culture. As a youth who loves and is highly proficient with firearms, Bowman matures during the era of increasing governmental intrusion into the lives of American citizens. Through his eyes, you experience the full implications of federal gun control legislation, particularly the Gun Control Act of 1968.

As a political activist and licensed machine gun dealer, Bowman inevitably becomes ensnared in the violent abuses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire-

arms and is forced to fight for his life. The twist which follows neatly answers those who tell us that an armed citizenry is no longer capable of balancing a modern military.

Along the way the author reveals profound love and knowledge of firearms, describing in intricate detail long range riflery, big game hunting, military weapons, and feats of marksmanship. People like John Browning and Elmer Keith figure prominently in this book.

No doubt the fans of governmental power whom we incorrectly label as "liberals" will consider this novel a prescription for rebellion. When it can no longer be ignored, they will label it "extremist" and liken it to works like *The Turner Diaries*.

But those accusations will have nothing in common with *Unintended Consequences*. Rather than delving into conspiracy theories, anti-semitism, or other examples of fashionably-reviled extremism, Ross merely advocates federal recognition of our basic civil rights - especially the Second Amendment. He likens recent federal abuses to the irrational and avoidable chain of tragedies which led to World War I, concluding, "It is my hope that this book will reduce the likelihood of armed conflict in this country."

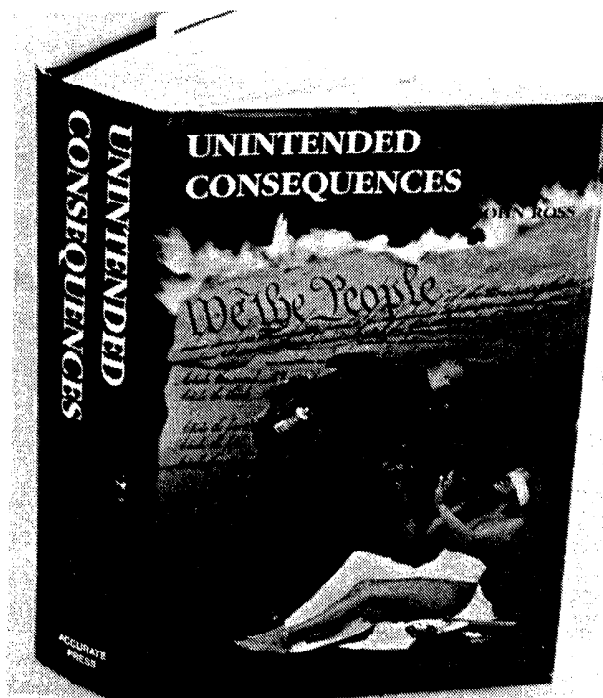
Unintended Consequences is available from our sister organization:

GRNC/FFE

P.O. Box 401

Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Price is \$28.95 plus \$2.50 S&H



...just in from our Sister Organization to the North!

Help Kick Off the GRNC Political Victory Fund. Attend the:

GUN RIGHTS EVENT OF THE YEAR

Grass Roots North Carolina proudly announces a trio of:
NATIONAL GUN RIGHTS ADVOCATES

John Ross, Larry Pratt, and Suzanna Gratia-Hupp

When: Saturday, 22 November 1997 at 6:30PM

Where: The Dixie Gun & Knife Classic in Raleigh, NC

Meet:

John Ross

Author of *Unintended Consequences*

The most explosive novel ever to sweep the gun rights movement, *Unintended Consequences* depicts what could happen when the BATF abuses someone who knows how to hit back!

Get an autographed copy of *Unintended Consequences*!

Ross will also be signing copies of *Unintended Consequences* on Saturday in the gun show. Come to the GRNC booth and meet John Ross personally.

Larry Pratt

Executive Director of Gun Owners of America

The premier national advocate for the individual's right to keep and bear arms in America today, he regularly appears on TV and Radio to defend YOUR rights!

Dr. Suzanna Gratia-Hupp

Luby's Cafeteria survivor, Texas State Representative, and nationally renowned concealed carry advocate.

CALL (704) 478-4121 for reservations

Only 200 tickets are available!

RESERVE NOW!

Pay by check, MASTERCARD or VISA. Send reservations to: 1423 Valley Road, Garner, NC 27529 or register or get more information by e-mail at wa4gnw@cris.com or by fax at (919) 834-1413 or by phone at (704) 478-4121. Confirmations will be sent with detailed directions. Price includes dinner buffet and raffle ticket for Remington shotgun and other prizes. Please make checks payable to "GRNC".

Hotel rooms available at GRNC discount if reserved before 8 November at: Marriott Courtyard, Raleigh, Wake Towne Drive (919) 821-3400.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

☐ GRNC Members and guests at \$30 ea. (includes: Dinner buffet, Speakers, raffle ticket): \$ _____

☐ Non-members at \$35 ea. (includes: Dinner buffet, Speakers, raffle ticket): \$ _____

☐ Autographed copies of *Unintended Consequences* at \$28.95 ea. (add \$3.00 each for shipping, if desired): \$ _____

credit card (check one) MC ☐ VISA ☐ Card # _____ Exp _____ Signature _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

GRASS ROOTS SOUTH CAROLINA

Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Send this sheet to GRSC for a free Newsletter!

_____ Keep me on the mailing list.

_____ I'd like _____ two-part cards.

(Please send donation to defray our printing and postage.)

Name/Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____