

# GrassRoots GunRights

Summer 2001

Volume 5 Number 2

## We Are On Our Way To Victory!

The GrassRoots GunRights proposed concealed weapon permit (CWP) and gun law reforms are moving through the General Assembly as Senate bill 261 (please read "A Guide to Understanding S. 261," below) and House bill 3010 (H. 3010). The two bills were identical when introduced, but are very different now. Senate bill 261 is the best bill, while H. 3010 is still a very good bill (for a detailed comparison of the two bills, please see the article on page 8).

The Senate bill was first sent to the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee then sent it to a subcommittee for consideration and a public hearing. After hearing testimony from both GrassRoots and SLED, the Senate subcommittee considering S. 261 adopted most of the GrassRoots proposed amendments as the subcommittee's own recommendations to the full

Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate Judiciary Committee then considered the subcommittee's report and adopted it as the new and improved S. 261 (please read "The Enemy Within Our Midst" on page 12 for a detailed report on how our enemies tried to kill S. 261 in the Senate Judiciary Committee). Unfortunately, there was a minority report attached to our bill (see "What is a 'Minority Report'?" on page 11). S. 261 is now awaiting action by the full Senate.

The House bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and was sent to the Senate for consideration. The Senate referred the House bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration where it will be sent to another subcommittee. The House bill is not as comprehensive as the amended Senate bill. Thus, the House bill will not benefit gun owners as much as the Senate bill will do.

The General Assembly will not act upon our bills again until January 2002. This gives us needed time to prepare for what must be done to get good PRO gun legislation passed in South Carolina. But, we can not delay. The clock is ticking. If the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms are not made into law by June 2002, then we have to start all over again in January 2003. Now is the time to put on the pressure because this is an election year.

Pro gun rights supporters must pull together and speak with a united voice if we want to get these needed CWP and gun law reforms passed. Working together we can get these reforms passed into law. Please read the GrassRoots "Game Plan for Victory: Part 1" on page 6 to see what must be done to get our needed CWP and gun law reforms turned into law.

## A Guide to Understanding S. 261

Most firearms related bills are concerned with how best to deal with the misuse of firearms by criminals com-

mitting violent crimes. S. 261 is different. S. 261 is concerned with how to deal with good people carrying concealed self-defense weapons to better protect the health and welfare of both the individual and society at large. The best available research shows that good people carrying concealed weapons cause a decrease in violent crime rates that benefit all people. Thus, society reaps

the benefit of lower violent crime rates, while incurring no additional expenses, simply because some people choose to carry concealed weapons.

Concealed weapon permit holders are a special group of the most law abiding people in SC. They must submit to and pass FBI fingerprint checks, undergo and pass both federal and state background checks, obtain a favorable recommendation from the local sheriff, sit through SLED approved

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## From the Editor

First, apologies for being late! Although the delays were unavoidable, I trust you will find the content worth the wait. The next issue will be coming shortly, after we receive your feedback on strategy and tactics. I will do my best thereafter to keep the newsletter on schedule.

I think the lead article on page one, "We are on our way to victory," gives a good overview of where we are legislatively with CWP reform, and provides a guide to a series of related articles that elaborate on the potential obstacles we face and strategies for overcoming them. And, as I noted above, we need feedback from you in order to proceed.

Please note that the deadline for nominations to the *GrassRoots* Board of Directors has been extended to October 15 (see the next column), and that several of the e-mail addresses for board members and staff have changed.

You will notice some redundancy and repetition in some of the articles, especially "A Guide to Understanding S. 261." This was intentional. We decided it was better for you to have *all* the information you needed to evaluate, and argue for, one of our proposed changes in a given section, rather than having to page back-and-forth through the article to find it.

As always your comments and suggestions for improving the newsletter are most welcome!

Patrick Nolan

## GrassRoots South Carolina Leadership Elections

Grass Roots of South Carolina, Inc. will hold the elections of the Board of Directors via mail-in ballot placed in the Fall 2001 newsletter. Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors are now being accepted. If you would like to run for office, or would like to nominate someone (please get their approval first), submit your nomination by October 15, 2001 to Mike Walguarnery, e-mail: [Walgun123@Netzero.net](mailto:Walgun123@Netzero.net), post: C/O GrassRoots Elections, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260. Please include full contact information with your nomination. Sealed nominations will be opened solely by the nominating committee and a list of nominees will be presented publicly at the GrassRoots October monthly meeting. Further inquiries may be sent to the above addresses.

## John Lott's *More Guns, Less Crime*



*GrassRoots* has purchased 100 copies of John Lott's book, *More Guns, Less Crime* as a result of an effort on the part of our membership to educate South Carolina legislators. The books will be distributed very soon to every legislator that sponsored or co-sponsored our CWP reform bills in the House and Senate. If you contributed to this worth cause and would like to see your legislator receive a book (for legislators not on our sponsor/co-sponsor list) please contact *GrassRoots* with your legislators' name(s):

**GrassRoots South Carolina**  
PO Box 6383, Columbia  
SC 29260-6383

or E-mail Ed Kelleher at:  
[Pres@scfirearms.org](mailto:Pres@scfirearms.org).

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# Grass Roots

## GrassRoots Is Not a Monopoly!

**Ed Kelleher**  
**President, GrassRoots**

This is an important issue of the *GrassRoots GunRights* newsletter because this has been an important year for GrassRoots. We've grown greatly in numbers, but more importantly, we've grown in *effectiveness*. Our Merchant Program continues to expand as more and more merchants get the word: "We're the Good Guys!" *GrassRoots* volunteers have participated in many more gun shows around the state this year telling people about the work *GrassRoots* is doing and encouraging them to join in. And literally thousands upon thousands of freedom-loving members of *GrassRoots* and Concealed Weapon Permit holders made their voices heard in the offices of state government this year in support of reasonable reforms to our state's CWP and gun laws. One legislator told us they received more phone calls, faxes, and mail in support of the *GrassRoots*-proposed CWP and gun law reforms than they received from *both* sides of the Confederate Flag issue! This newsletter will bring you up to date on what *GrassRoots* members have been doing this year, and what we plan to do next year.

But, this growth has not been without pain. The article, "The Enemy Within Our Midst, on page\*\*\*\*" raises this question: "Why would NRA leadership oppose good, pro-gun legislation, when NRA members overwhelmingly support the legislation?" I believe it is important to know the answer to this question because if we don't, we can't solve the problem.

Opposition to passing good, pro-gun reforms hurts everyone in the state, not just gun owners. The vast majority of *GrassRoots* members are also NRA members, and NRA members overwhelmingly support the *GrassRoots* CWP and gun law re-

forms. The NRA *leadership* in South Carolina should reflect the view of NRA *members*, but it doesn't. I believe the reason the NRA *leadership* opposes our reforms can be summed up in one word—competition.

Competition is good. It's the American way to improve things. But, competition can be abused. For example, you're running in a race and see the other guy catching up on you. If the sight of the other guy makes you run faster, then competition has made you a better person because you have tried harder. But, if the sight of the other guy makes you stick your foot out to trip him, then competition has warped your sense of right and wrong because bringing down others definitely is not the way to advance yourself!

A friendly senator has told *GrassRoots* that the South Carolina NRA *leadership* considers itself to be in a turf war with *GrassRoots* and that the more successful *GrassRoots* becomes, the dirtier the NRA *leadership* will get. This is unfortunate and absolutely contrary to the core principles held by *GrassRoots*. Gun owners aren't "turf." Gun owners aren't a "market" for some "business" to attempt to monopolize!

Businesses don't like competition. They'd rather have a monopoly so they can do the least necessary to dominate the market, set whatever prices they like, and claim to be the best. A monopoly benefits the business but always works against the individual consumers. A monopoly has no incentive to work harder and improve! This I believe is the problem with the NRA *leadership*. NRA *leadership* considers itself to be a *business* and NRA *members* to be a *market*—a market it wants to monopolize and control.

But, *GrassRoots* is *not* a business. *GrassRoots* seeks the good of its individual members and of all citizens at

large, not the self-aggrandizement of the organization itself or its leadership. *GrassRoots* welcomes other groups working even better and harder than *GrassRoots* towards the same goal. The more people we have working to restore our gun rights, the better!

A monopoly's idea of so-called "grassroots activism" is (in order of importance): "Send us money. Shut up. And do what we tell you." It's domination. A monopoly wants to dominate its market.

But, the *GrassRoots* model of "grassroots activism" is: "Here's what needs to be done. Here's our reason why. Send us more ideas. Please get to work. And send us money so we can tell others and get them to help too." And it works! The *GrassRoots* model has appealed to freedom-minded individuals across the state. In just a few short years we've grown to be by far the largest South Carolina pro-self-defense and pro-gun-rights organization. We're still growing in numbers and effectiveness!

*GrassRoots* will support *all* efforts that are beneficial to gun owners no matter who initiates them (see "The High Road: Principle First"). *GrassRoots* will oppose all efforts that are detrimental to our right to keep and bear arms, and we'll clearly say why, so you can make up your own mind.

To those honestly working to improve the rights of gun owners in South Carolina, *GrassRoots* extends the right hand of fellowship and welcome. To those intent on harming *GrassRoots* and maintaining a monopoly, I say beware! *GrassRoots* won't tolerate distraction from our goal of getting reasonable CWP and gun law reforms passed in South Carolina.

*Ed Kelleher*

## Of Special Interest to Women

### Practicing Self-Defense

by Julie Holling

Practice makes perfect, right? So every month I go practice my brand of self-defense. Well, it's not completely mine, but most people think it's unusual for a woman. That's because it involves a handgun.

You see, I shoot in *International Defensive Pistol Association* (IDPA) matches. IDPA is a shooting discipline geared towards concealed carry of handguns. It deals with scenarios that could happen to you everyday, on the street or in your home. Participating in matches helps me improve my skills. I can compete against myself or compare my skills to others in the same class. The Safety Officers ensure that no one gets hurt, and coach the new shooters through the match.

As you may have guessed, I don't want to be dependent on someone else to protect me, so I have a concealed weapon permit (CWP). Although this is what the discipline was designed for, you don't have to have a CWP to participate in matches, just a desire to improve your skills, should you ever need them. I, for one, don't want to have to worry about how to aim my handgun while I'm being attacked.

So, I'd like to invite you to join me for a special match, a ladies only match. The Mid-Carolina Rifle Club in Columbia will be hosting its second annual IDPA Ladies Match on October 20, 2001. The Match will be "Run" by ladies and only ladies will be present (with the possible exception of a photographer or two).

If possible we will have an experienced shooter with each lady to act as a "coach". To ensure we have enough "coaches" on hand the day of the match, we need competitors to "register" for the match. In other word call or e-mail me and let me know your coming so I get a head

count. A list of skills you will need to have before the match is below, as well as a list of what you will need to bring. The match will be 42 to 45 rounds so it can be shot with one box of ammo. The match will be five stages, and will include all the skills found in our monthly matches, just a smaller scale.

#### Basic Skills Requirements for the IDPA Ladies Match:

- ◆ A thorough Knowledge of firearm safety.
  - ◆ A thorough Knowledge of the handgun they will be using at the match.
  - ◆ The ability to draw from a holster (from concealment, too).
  - ◆ The ability to reload their handgun. (There will only be one stage requiring a reload.)
  - ◆ The knowledge to "clear" simple malfunctions their handgun might have during the match.
  - ◆ The ability to shoot while moving. (The movement will be limited, and will only be included on one stage.)
  - ◆ A basic understanding of IDPA rules. A hand-out will be available with IDPA safety rules, a description of range commands, the scoring system, etc. (Contact me before the match to receive one.)
- What you'll need to bring:** (If you don't have something, let me know. I'll see if I can provide it for you.)
- ◆ A handgun (either a revolver or semi-auto)

- ◆ At least two speed loaders for the revolver or two magazines for the semi-auto
- ◆ A holster and speed loader pouches or magazine pouches (no fanny pack holsters for safety reasons, thanks)
- ◆ A lightweight jacket or vest to use for concealment
- ◆ Hearing and eye protection
- ◆ 50 rounds of ammunition

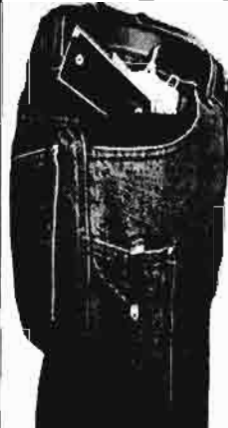
**WHEN:** Saturday, October 20, 2001.  
Sign-up at 9:30. Shooting starts at 10:00.

**WHERE:** Mid-Carolina Rifle Club outside of Columbia (Map available on [www.scfirearms.org/mcrc](http://www.scfirearms.org/mcrc) or by mail from me.)

**MATCH FEE:** \$5.00 (to cover targets and target pasters)

**CONTACT INFO:** Julie Holling, 803/798-1543 or [jwholling@aol.com](mailto:jwholling@aol.com)

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## Game Plan For Victory: Part 1!

The General Assembly returns to Columbia, SC on Tuesday, January 8, 2002. GrassRoots will be waiting for them. Below you will find what actions have been decided upon or suggested so far. If you have any suggestions on what else can be done, let us know.

**GrassRoots leadership will have a direct mail package ready to be sent to all 30,000+ concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders in South Carolina the first week in January.** These direct mail packages will include postcards to be sent by you to your Senators. The postcards will let the Senators know you support passage of S. 261, the GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms. Tens of thousands of postcards all flooding into the Senator's offices at the same time with the same message will send a strong message to the Senators that the people of South Carolina want reasonable reforms enacted. In addition to postcards, we will be asking you to send faxes and letters to your Senators, and give your postcards to friends or neighbors who GrassRoots is not able to reach. **Remember, all postcards must be sent, faxes and letters are in addition to postcards.** Postcards show we are an organized force to be reckoned with. We need all people who support reasonable gun law reforms to send postcards, faxes, or letters to their Senators in January when the big push to pass S. 261 gets started. One lone voice can be ignored, but tens of thousands of voices speaking at the same time can not. If the Senators thought we made a huge showing last time, wait until they see what we do this time!

**GrassRoots leaders will make sure every Senator gets a package explaining why S. 261, the GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms, benefits all people in SC.** Undecided Senators and Senators

agreeing to support our gun law reforms need to be able to defend why they voted the way they did. GrassRoots is asking for reforms because reforms will save lives, prevent rapes, stop robberies, and protect children. We know this already, and politicians need to know it, too. Please read "A Guide to Understanding S. 261" on page one to learn more about S. 261.

**GrassRoots leaders will offer to meet with any Senator who will take the time to talk with us.** The more people who ask their Senators to meet with GrassRoots leaders, the more Senators who will meet with GrassRoots leaders.

**What do we do if the Senators hope that we will go away and forget about S. 261?** One activity suggested by GrassRoots leadership is to have a telephone blitz of the Senate every Tuesday until our bill gets passed. Why Tuesday? Because Tuesday is the first day of the work week for Senators. As the Senators start work each week we will let them know we have not forgotten about our bill. If a Senator has not yet agreed to support our bill, we will politely ask them to do so and ask them to let GrassRoots leaders come discuss why the bill benefits all people in SC. If a Senator has already agreed to support our bill, we will thank them for supporting our bill and we will politely ask them to please recruit other Senators to support our bill. Remember, it is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. We must get two thirds of the Senators to agree to consider our bill if we are to get it passed.



**There are advantages and disadvantages to doing a telephone blitz.** The advantages are that Senators will know we are constantly watching and waiting for them to pass S. 261, and that we are so committed to passage of S. 261 that we will definitely "remember in November" if S. 261 does not pass. The disadvantages are that if we start a telephone blitz and don't follow through, then the Senators will think we are not committed enough to "remember in November" and they can easily side with the anti gun mass media and never let S. 261 come up for a vote. Some Senators may claim we are harassing them with a telephone blitz, but that would only be an excuse heard from those who were not going to help get S. 261 passed anyway. Pro gun Senators would be comforted by knowing their supporters were standing firm.

**GrassRoots needs to hear from you in time to publish our final "Game Plan for Victory: Part 2" in the next newsletter.** GrassRoots needs to count the cost before deciding whether to do a telephone blitz. Will you commit to calling your Senator every Tuesday until S. 261 passes? Yes or no, we need to hear from you. Please send a postcard with a "yes" or "no" printed on it along with your name, address, and phone number. A weekly telephone blitz of the Senate will only become part of the Game Plan for Victory if thousands of you respond promising to make calls every Tuesday. If a telephone blitz is approved, then "Game Plan for Victory: Part 2" (to be in the next newsletter) will include short, simple, easy to use scripts for making your calls.

Politicians love the status quo, which is just a nice way of saying they don't like to rock the boat. If a

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## Direct Mail: Your Support is the Key to Victory

Newsletters are great for communicating with *GrassRoots* members, but newsletters only come out four times per year. Using newsletters to get needed information to *GrassRoots* activists when things are happening quickly during the legislative season does not work. *GrassRoots* needed to find a better way to communicate with you, the *GrassRoots* membership, when time was limited.

*GrassRoots* leadership decided to try using direct mail to send important information in a timely manner. We knew direct mail would allow us to keep you better informed so that the power of grassroots activism could work better, but direct mail is expensive. So, *GrassRoots* leadership decided

to let you vote on whether we should continue to use direct mail. The voting was not done by ballot. The voting was done through your financial contributions. If you sent in enough additional money to cover the costs of direct mail, then we would work harder to give you the tools to better fight to regain our rights. If you did not send in enough money to cover the additional costs, then we would continue using only the newsletters.

The results of the voting came in loud and strong - *you like the direct mail!* So, direct mail will continue to be sent to you when there is a *special need* for you to get information quickly. *GrassRoots* can do this only for as long as you continue to send in additional contributions to cover the additional costs. *GrassRoots* will *never* send you direct mail simply to ask for more money, or to send you a fake "poll" as a ruse to get more

money. *When GrassRoots sends you a direct mail package it will be because something important needs to be done by you, and it needs to be done right away!* We will ask for more money, but only because direct mail, while quite effective, is expensive and not covered by basic membership dues.

The real power of *GrassRoots* is not *GrassRoots* leadership showing up at House and Senate hearings and meetings. The real power of *GrassRoots* comes from *YOU* - the membership! When thousands of *GrassRoots*

were able to mobilize more than just *GrassRoots* members. For your information, sending a letter with postcards to the entire SC CWP list costs *GrassRoots* over \$15,000!

A few Senators told *GrassRoots* leaders that the response to the *GrassRoots* direct mail was overwhelming! The Senators stated the *GrassRoots* direct mail caused more phone calls, letters, postcards, faxes, emails, and personal contacts to flood into the Senate than had ever been received on any issue - *ever!* The Senators stated *GrassRoots* even caused more public

response than was created over the Confederate Flag issue! The huge response from CWP holders was the primary reason Senators voted to pass S. 261. Without the

huge response, S. 261 would have died in committee.

Direct mail was the key to the huge response and victory! But, *GrassRoots* was only able to use direct mail because of your generosity! Please continue to show your support through additional contributions when you renew your memberships and when you get the next direct mail.

Creating huge responses is how we will get our legislation passed. When gun owners speak the same message at the same time, we show we are an organized and united force. The last thing politicians want to face at election time is an organized and united force angry at them for not doing the right thing. Please see "Game Plan for Victory: Part 1" on page 6 to see how your support of direct mail will help us win!



members respond at the same time, the politicians realize *GrassRoots* leaders are not just a few guys talking through their hats. Politicians are starting to understand that *GrassRoots* gun owners are a force to be reckoned with in South Carolina.

Your support of direct mail has already paid off in a big way! When the Senate Judiciary Committee was considering what to do with S. 261 (the *GrassRoots* concealed weapon permit (CWP) and gun law reforms), *GrassRoots* sent out a direct mail package to *GrassRoots* members with postcards included to be sent to the Judiciary Committee members, and a direct mail flyer to the entire South Carolina CWP list. We could never have afforded to send out direct mail to the entire SC CWP list without your additional contributions. By sending to the entire SC CWP list, we

# The Two CWP Reform Bills Compared

By Paul Peters

The table below gives a quick overview of the issues addressed and what amendments are proposed in each of the two CWP Reform bills. The House bill is H. 3010. The Senate bill is S. 261. The bills propose to amend a number of sections of law. While the bills mostly address CWP issues, they also propose to amend some sections of law which are not part of the CWP law. In the table, the number for each section of law precedes the description of its proposed amendment.

The table is an interpretation of the two bills. To read the actual text of the bills, go to the legislature's web site (<http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us>) and search for the bills by number. From that same site you also can access the SC Code of Laws and read the sections of law.

CWP = Concealed Weapon Permit or Concealed Weapon Permittee  
 Non-CWP = Someone who does not have a Concealed Weapon Permit  
 § = Section

	S. 261	H. 3010
Issue		
Carrying on the premises of a school and the premises of any publicly owned bldg. ("Premises" includes both the buildings and the land on which those buildings sit.)	<p>§16-23-420                      Currently, neither CWPs nor non-CWPs can carry any kind of firearm onto the premises of any publicly owned building (which includes schools). Under this bill non-CWPs still would not be able to have a firearm on the premises of any school, college, or university. Non-CWPs still would not be able to carry a firearm into any publicly owned building without permission. Parking lots and driveways of publicly owned buildings would not be prohibited areas for firearms possessed pursuant to §16-23-20(9) (glove compartment, console, trunk, CWP carry, etc.). CWPs would be able to carry on the premises of or in schools and publicly owned buildings.</p> <p>§16-23-430                      State parks and rest areas would not be able post against CWP carry.</p>	<p>§16-23-420                      Same as S. 261 except that it would not allow all CWPs to carry at schools. It would except CWPs who are married students living in student housing.</p>
Capitol and capitol grounds	<p>§10-11-320                      Would allow both CWPs and non-CWPs to have a firearm in a glove compartment, console, or trunk pursuant to §16-23-20(9). Would allow CWP carry.</p>	
Premises of a business licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption	<p>§16-23-465                      This section of law calls for an "additional penalty for unlawfully carrying pistol or firearm onto premises of business selling alcoholic liquors, beers or wines for on-premises consumption." The phrase "onto premises of" would be amended to read "into." This means that the penalty specified in this section would not apply to someone legally having a firearm on the premises (e.g., in the glove compartment of a car in the parking lot) but would not allow possession inside the business. Amendment does not say that CWPs can carry into such businesses.</p>	<p>§16-23-465                      Same as S. 261</p>
Definition of resident	<p>§23-31-210(1)                      Changes the definition of resident to: "an individual who is present in South Carolina with the intention of making a permanent home in South Carolina or military personnel on permanent change of station orders."</p>	Same as S. 261
Number of photos for initial application and renewal	<p>§23-31-215                      Reduces to one the number of photos required with initial application and renewal and allows photos not smaller than 1 inch by 1 inch and not larger than 3 inches by 5 inches.</p>	Same as S. 261
Carrying in churches or other religious sanctuaries	<p>§23-31-215                      Would allow CWP carry in churches or other religious sanctuaries with permission from church official or governing body.</p>	Same as S. 261
Permittee who is no longer SC resident	<p>§23-31-215                      Permit is revoked immediately when permittee is no longer a resident of the state.</p>	Same as S. 261

	S. 261	H. 3010
Issue		
Signs	§23-31-235 Sets standards for the posting of signs and for the signs themselves at places where posting is required and places that choose to post.	§23-31-235 Sets standards for the posting of signs and for the signs themselves at places where posting is required and places that choose to post.
Carrying in state parks which are under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism	§51-3-145(G) CWP would be able to carry in state parks which are under the jurisdiction of PRT. §16-23-420 State parks and rest areas would not be able post against CWP.	§51-3-145(G) Same as S. 261
Law enforcement officers (LEOs)	§16-23-20 Certified LEOs from any jurisdiction would be able to carry throughout SC if they are in compliance with their respective agencies' policies. Retired LEOs and previously commissioned LEOs would be able to carry after completing an annual fire-arms course.	
Fingerprints	§23-31-215 Would allow for a medical waiver of the fingerprints requirement for applications and renewals.	
CWP required to identify himself when carrying	§23-31-215 Changes wording slightly. Original law requires CWP to identify himself as a CWP whenever an officer asks for identification. Proposed amendment would limit that to only when the CWP is carrying.	
Carrying in polling place on election day; office or business place of governing body of a county, school district, municipality, or special purpose district; school or college athletic event not related to firearms; day care or pre-school facility; or medical facility	§23-31-215 CWP would be able to carry in those places.	
General provision regarding places listed in §23-31-215 (police facility, detention facility, courthouse, etc.) as prohibited carry locations	§23-31-215 CWP would be able to carry in any of those places only after being given permission by someone with the apparent authority to grant permission at that location.	
Opening a glove compartment, console, or trunk of a vehicle where a firearm is legally stored when directed to do so by police	§16-23-20(9) Would amend the law to make it clear that this is legal (i.e., that by opening the glove compartment, console, or trunk the individual doesn't violate the requirement that it be closed).	



## A Simple Guide to How A Law Gets Made

Lets say you have a wonderful idea for a new law that would benefit the people of South Carolina. How do you get your idea turned into law? Well, here is a simple guide of what must be done. We will use the *GrassRoots* proposed concealed weapon permit (CWP) and gun law reforms as an example.

First, a legislator must be convinced to introduce a bill into the House or Senate. A bill is simply a legislator's proposal for a new law. If a legislator does not introduce a bill proposing that your idea be made into law, then your idea will not become a law. This is quite an obstacle for some ideas because the idea may be too controversial. A legislator will not want his name associated with a controversial bill that has no chance of passage and that will generate a lot of

negative press. Representative Jake Knotts stepped forward to introduce the *GrassRoots* CWP reforms. After Representative Knotts had the courage to step forward in the House, Senator Glenn Reese introduced an identical bill in the Senate.

Once the bill is introduced into the House or Senate, it gets a "first reading" and is then referred to a Committee for study. The *GrassRoots* bills were sent to the Judiciary Committees in both the House and Senate.

After a bill is referred to Committee, it is then referred to a subcommittee for public hearings and further study. It is only at the subcommittee hearing level that members of the public are allowed to speak on the bill. It is at the subcommittee level that members of the public have the best chance of convincing legislators to amend,

accept, or reject a bill. The subcommittee is also the place where most bills die. Most bills never get out of subcommittee because they are held over for more study until it is too late to pass the bill into law. So, if you repeatedly hear that your bill is being considered by subcommittee, that is usually a nice way of politely putting you off and killing your bill.

Testimony at subcommittee hearings is not officially recorded or written down. Thus, there are no transcripts of testimony taken at these public hearings available for later review. If someone wants to know what was said at a subcommittee hearing, then they had better show up and listen. That is why it is so important that *GrassRoots* has someone at every subcommittee hearing. *GrassRoots* does not want to allow any false statements

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## Who Opposes the *GrassRoots* Gun Law Reforms?

*GrassRoots* leaders are frequently asked who could possibly oppose such reasonable concealed weapon permit (CWP) and gun law reforms as those included in the *GrassRoots* proposed bills. Please read "A Guide to Understanding S. 261" on page one to learn exactly what S. 261 does. This is an important matter because we must understand our opposition if we are to be successful in overcoming their objections and getting good pro gun legislation passed. Our opposition falls primarily into two different camps - liberal Democrats and the enemy within our midst. Each one will be discussed below.

### Liberal Democrats

One camp of opposition is the liberal Democrats, primarily the Black Caucus. *GrassRoots* leaders are trying to educate the Black Caucus on the truth about gun control. Some of the Black Caucus are unaware of the racist history of gun control. So, *Grass-*

*Roots* leadership is providing literature to the Black Caucus published by Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership documenting how gun control laws are racist in origin. Some of the Black Caucus are unaware of how liberal concealed weapon permit laws benefit minorities, women, and the handicapped more than any other groups. So, *GrassRoots* leadership is providing copies of Dr. John Lott's book, *More Guns, Less Crime*, to those members of the Black Caucus who show an interest in learning the truth. Thus, if the Black Caucus truly wants to rid our state of racist laws and to better protect minorities, women, and the handicapped, then they should support the *GrassRoots* proposed CWP and gun law reforms.

*GrassRoots* leaders are pointing out how present gun laws are subject to varying interpretations. Varying interpretations of the law allow for selective enforcement of the law. Selective enforcement of the law allows for dis-

criminatory enforcement of the law. Thus, if the Black Caucus truly wants to avoid discriminatory enforcement of the law, then they should support the *GrassRoots* proposed CWP and gun law reforms.

For those liberal Democrats who truly want to do the right thing, *GrassRoots* is providing the facts to support doing the right thing. The real problem is that too many Democrats do not want to do the right thing, they only want to toe the liberal Democratic party line.

Gun owners must remember our gun rights are too important to play partisan politics with. If gun owners only support Republican candidates, regardless of how strongly the Democratic candidate supports gun rights, then what is the incentive for a Democratic candidate to buck the liberal Democratic leadership and support our gun rights? Gun owners must support

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to go unchallenged. *GrassRoots* wants to ensure the legislators know the facts when considering bills and amendments.

Any amendments proposed by the public at a subcommittee hearing are considered by the subcommittee. If a proposed amendment is considered worthy by the members of the subcommittee, the subcommittee will adopt the amendment. The adopted amendment becomes part of the amended bill sent back to the full Committee as the official recommendation of the subcommittee. If there is no merit to a proposed amendment, or if an amendment is considered too controversial or disdainful, then the subcommittee will not adopt the proposed amendment as one of the subcommittee's recommendations.

The full Committee will then consider the report from the subcommittee. One procedural move to kill a bill is to "table" it. Tabling a bill can be done to allow further private debate or to effectively kill the bill. Most votes are not recorded votes, but simply unrecorded voice votes. But, an unrecorded voice vote can still kill a bill. Thus, it is important to have people at

the full committee to be able to record how each legislator votes during unrecorded voice votes. *GrassRoots* has organized the *GrassRoots GunRights Gorillas*. The *GrassRoots GunRights Gorillas* show up at full committee meetings to record the votes and comments of our elected representatives.

One of the first actions taken in the Senate Judiciary Committee when the *GrassRoots* proposed CWP and gun law reforms came up from subcommittee for consideration was a motion to table the bill. This was done to kill the bill, but pro gun Senators voted not to table the bill. The Senate Judiciary Committee then voted to adopt the subcommittee report and to pass S. 261 on for consideration by the full Senate. Unfortunately, there was a minority report attached to S. 261 which will make it much more difficult to get the bill passed (please see "What is a Minority Report" below).

Once a bill is passed from the full Committee to the floor of the House or Senate, it has a chance to come up for debate and passage. Once again, procedural moves can be used to kill a bill. A bill must receive a favorable "second reading" and "third reading" before it is passed by either the House

or Senate. These "readings" are simply votes by the full House or Senate.

Once a bill is passed by the House or Senate, it is then sent to the other body of the General Assembly and it starts the process all over again. If the second chamber of the General Assembly amends the bill as passed by the first chamber, then it must return to the first chamber to have the amendments considered. If no agreement occurs, then a conference committee of members of both the House and Senate will meet to try to work out a compromise bill that is agreeable to both chambers. A bill must be passed by both the House and the Senate prior to becoming a law.

Once a bill is passed by both the House and Senate, then it goes to the Governor for his approval. The Governor can veto the bill, sign the bill into law, or ignore the bill and it will become law without his signature. If the Governor vetoes the bill, then the General Assembly can override the veto with a super majority vote in both the House and Senate and it will become law. And, all of this must occur within a two-year legislative session, or start completely over. This two-year session is over in June 2002.

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## What Is a "Minority Report"?

A minority report is a Senate procedural move used to try to kill legislation. A minority report allows a single Senator to block consideration of a bill unless either two thirds of the Senators, or 12 of the 17 Senators on the Rules Committee plus a majority of the Senate vote to consider the bill in spite of the minority report. Most bills with a minority report attached will never get voted upon by the full Senate because it is very difficult to get Senators to vote to consider a bill with a minority report attached. Thus, one Senator can effectively veto legislation.

Many Senators will not vote to

consider a bill with a minority report attached to it even if they support the bill. Senators consider it professional courtesy to honor another Senator's minority report. Senators do this because they know they must support the minority report of another Senator if they want that Senator to honor their minority report.

Getting a two thirds vote of the Senate or 12 Senators on the Rules Committee plus a majority of the Senate to vote to consider a bill with a minority report is not impossible, only difficult. The Law Abiding Citizen's Self-Defense Act of 1996 had a minority report attached to it, too. Yet, we now have a "shall issue" concealed

weapon permit law because gun owners stuck together to get it passed. Gun owners let the politicians know that our votes in November 1996 would depend upon how the Senators voted on our concealed weapon permit bill in May 1996.

If gun owners will only stick together in 2002 and tell Senators that our votes in November 2002 will depend upon how the Senators vote on S. 261, then the *GrassRoots* proposed concealed weapon permit and gun law reforms will become law. It's that easy. But, it's only "easy" if we get all gun owners involved and working together. Please support the *GrassRoots* Game Plan for Victory.

(Continued from page 10)

pro gun politicians whether the pro gun politician is Democrat, Republican, or whatever.

Please remember not all Democrats are liberal Democrats, and not all Republicans are conservative Republicans. In fact, Senator Glenn Reese, the primary Senate sponsor of the GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms, is a Democrat. Senator Reese has stated there are other Senate Democrats who will vote to support the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms. Gun owners should support those politicians who protect our gun rights regardless of party affiliation.

### **The Enemy Within Our Midst**

The second camp of opposition to the GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms is reported to be NRA *leadership*, more specifically John Shipper of NRA-ILA and Rick Daniel, President of Gun Owners of

South Carolina. NRA *leadership* is not the same thing as NRA *membership*. NRA *membership* strongly supports the GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms because the reforms are very pro gun. Overwhelming NRA *membership* support of the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms was made quite clear when NRA *leadership* opposition to S. 261 was exposed.

**This is not a GrassRoots versus NRA issue. The vast majority of GrassRoots members and leaders are also members of the NRA.** The issue is NRA *leadership* wrongly opposing pro gun rights legislation and thus betraying the rank and file NRA *membership*. Please read "The Enemy Within Our Midst" below which reports the NRA *leadership's* efforts to kill the GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms.

All pro gun organizations must

work together to support all pro gun legislation. There is no room for petty jealousies and rivalries in our efforts to reclaim our rights. All gun rights legislation should be supported or opposed based upon guiding principles, not who initially proposed the legislation. Please read "The High Road: Principle First" on page 16 contrasting the different positions taken by NRA *leadership* and GrassRoots *leadership* on pro gun legislation.

Some liberal Democrats can be temporarily excused for opposing the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms because they are unaware of the facts. But, NRA *leadership* already knows the facts. NRA *leadership* can not claim ignorance. NRA *leadership* has no valid excuse for opposing pro gun legislation. It is time for NRA *membership* to convince NRA *leadership* to do the right thing and support the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms.

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## **The Enemy Within Our Midst**

GrassRoots talked with Senators and staffers before, during, and after the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting on May 8, 2001 (when consideration of the GrassRoots proposed concealed weapon permit (CWP) and gun law reforms were postponed until a later date). GrassRoots heard the same message each time. The show of support by GrassRoots supporters, *most of whom are also NRA members*, for S. 261 was the largest ever seen by anyone in the Senate on any issue. This was excellent news. GrassRoots members were following the game plan and showing the power that a dedicated minority can exert, which is what grassroots activism is all about.

But, there were sinister forces at work. Immediately after the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting on May 8, GrassRoots *leadership* was told by a friendly Senator that Senator Hutto was telling fellow members of the Judiciary Committee that NRA *leadership* opposed S. 261. This friendly

Senator supports S. 261 and wanted GrassRoots to know what was going on behind the scenes so that we could fix the problem.

GrassRoots wanted to quickly set the record straight and prove this was just a misunderstanding on the part of Senator Hutto. Think about it. How could any organization claiming to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and the right to self-defense oppose S. 261 - the best pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and pro self-defense legislation introduced in the South Carolina General Assembly in many years? In fact, any organization that supports the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment should be proud to support S. 261. Please read "A Guide to Understanding S. 261" on page one to learn exactly what S. 261 does. GrassRoots was sure NRA *leadership* supported S. 261 because NRA *membership* would have it no other way.

Obviously, the only way to set the record straight about the NRA's position on S. 261 would be to get a state-

ment from NRA *leadership*. Wayne LaPierre and Charlton Heston may be the people you think of when you think of NRA *leadership*. But, Wayne LaPierre and Charlton Heston don't come to lobby the South Carolina General Assembly. The NRA employs lower level people to let the General Assembly know what NRA *leadership* wants. The legislators in the General Assembly think of John Shipper (official registered lobbyist for NRA-ILA in SC) and Rick Daniel (president of *Gun Owners of South Carolina*) when they think of NRA *leadership*. This is because national NRA *leadership* employs Mr. Shipper and Mr. Daniel to tell SC legislators what the NRA *leadership* wants done in SC.

In an attempt to set the record straight about the NRA's position on S. 261, Ed Kelleher (President of GrassRoots) called John Shipper. Ed

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informed Mr. Shipper that Senator Hutto was telling other Senators the NRA opposed S. 261. Ed stated this had to be some sort of misunderstanding. Mr. Shipper denied opposing S. 261. Ed told Mr. Shipper all it would take to resolve this misunderstanding was a statement that NRA leadership supported pro-gun S. 261. Since the next Judiciary Committee meeting was scheduled for May 15, the NRA's statement was needed immediately, or else Senators might believe Senator Hutto and kill S. 261 for the NRA. Mr. Shipper failed to issue a statement supporting pro-gun S. 261.

Ed Kelleher then asked Mr. Shipper to at least issue a statement that NRA leadership did not oppose S. 261 to refute Senator Hutto's assertions to the contrary. Again, Mr. Shipper failed to issue a statement that NRA leadership did not oppose S. 261.

Ed Kelleher then asked Mr. Shipper to, at the very least, issue a statement from the NRA that NRA leadership took no position on S. 261. Once again, Mr. Shipper failed to issue a statement that NRA leadership took no position on S. 261.

After striking out with Mr. Shipper, Ed then called Rick Daniel. Ed informed Mr. Daniel that senators were saying NRA leadership opposed S. 261. Ed again stated this had to be some sort of misunderstanding. Mr. Daniel denied opposing S. 261. Ed told Mr. Daniel all it would take to resolve this misunderstanding was a statement that the NRA supported S. 261. Ed asked Mr. Daniel to issue one of the three statements Ed had asked Mr. Shipper to make. Mr. Daniel failed to issue any statement that NRA leadership either supported, did not oppose, or took no position on pro-gun S. 261.

Rob Butler (*GrassRoots* VP and Legislative Director) called Senator Hutto on Thursday, May 10. Rob told Senator Hutto that he had heard Senator Hutto was telling fellow Senators on the Judiciary Committee that NRA

leadership opposed S. 261. Rob told Senator Hutto that John Shipper and Rick Daniel both denied opposing S. 261. Senator Hutto was adamant that they told him S. 261 was not an NRA bill and the NRA did not want S. 261 to move any further in the legislative process.

Senator Hutto's statements about the NRA leadership were backed up by another friendly Senator who supports S. 261. This friendly Senator stated that regardless of the actual language used by NRA leadership, the NRA's message was exactly as Senator Hutto stated - kill S. 261. Both of the friendly Senators who reported that NRA leadership was trying to kill S. 261 do not want to get involved in the petty politics of a turf war between pro-gun groups. These Senators want us to resolve the problems in the pro-gun community without getting them involved. But, these Senators do want S. 261 passed because South Carolina needs good reasonable CWP and gun law reforms.

*GrassRoots* leadership knew NRA **membership** supported the *GrassRoots* proposed CWP and gun law reforms contained in S. 261 even if NRA **leadership** did not. Because time was of critical importance, *GrassRoots* used email and the internet to let *GrassRoots* and NRA **members** know how NRA **leadership** was trying to kill a pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and pro self-defense bill behind the scenes. The response from NRA and *GrassRoots* members was overwhelming!

**NRA members in South Carolina lit up the phones and faxes at NRA headquarters! NRA members do indeed support the *GrassRoots* CWP and gun law reforms! NRA members do not care who wrote or introduced the legislation, they only care that pro-gun rights legislation is finally being pushed forward in SC!**

Thanks to the overwhelming support of pro gun rights legislation from **NRA membership**, **NRA leadership**

was forced to issue a statement on May 14 (see copy of NRA position statement on page 14). National and state NRA leadership (represented by John Shipper and Rick Daniel) issued a joint statement that the NRA's position on S. 261 was one of "NEUTRALITY." The statement professed that a neutral position was taken because "we were not party in drafting this bill nor were we consulted on its content."

**The NRA position statement does not pass the sniff test. It stinks.** Using the NRA leadership's logic, since they don't help write nor are they consulted on anti-gun legislation, they should take positions of neutrality on all anti-gun legislation. NRA "leadership" should be ashamed. Pro-gun rights legislation should be supported by all pro-gun, pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and pro self-defense organizations. Please read "The High Road: Principle First" on page 16 to see how *GrassRoots* treats pro-gun legislation put forth by the NRA.

**Why would a pro-gun organization not SUPPORT a pro-gun rights bill?** Senators are not dumb. They can read between the lines. They will interpret the statement of neutrality as if it were a statement of opposition. NRA **leadership** is betraying NRA **membership** by refusing to **support** the reasonable pro-gun reforms in S. 261. It will be up to NRA **members** to let Senators know that NRA **membership** supports pro-gun S. 261.

The *Mid Carolina Rifle Club* (MCRC), an NRA affiliated club, was not happy with the NRA **leadership's** position of neutrality on S. 261. MCRC supports pro-gun legislation and felt NRA **membership** would support S. 261 if given the opportunity to do so. On Saturday, May 19, 2001, *Gun Owners of South Carolina* (GOSC) had a Board of Directors (BOD) meeting. A quorum was present and a motion was duly made by the MCRC representative that "Gun

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD  
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400

Post-it Fax Note 7671		Date 5/18/01	Pages 1
To Ed Kelleher	From Jane Fallaw		
Co/Dept.	Co		
Phone #	Phone # 212-6140		
Fax # 791-7349	Fax #		

To: South Carolina Senators

From: John Shipper, National Rifle Association and  
Rick Daniel, Gun Owners of South Carolina

Date: May 14, 2001

It has come to our attention that some confusion still exists concerning the legislative agenda of the National Rifle Association and its state affiliate Gun Owners of South Carolina. We would like to again clarify that our two priorities this year are Palmetto Exile (H3167 & S96), and repeal of the one handgun a month law (H3405).

In regards to Senate Bill 261, which would (among other things) allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry concealed weapons in schools and churches, we have taken a position of NEUTRALITY. We were not party in drafting this bill nor were we consulted on its content or political ramifications for a legislative strategy that would benefit NRA members and gun owners in South Carolina.

Please contact John Shipper at (703) 267-1209 or Rick Daniel at (803) 781-6332 if you have any questions.

Thank You.

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Instructor Members of GrassRoots South Carolina enjoy the following additional benefits of GrassRoots membership:

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politician rocks the boat, then he or she just might anger enough people that the politician could lose the next election, or at least have to work harder for re-election. Politicians get dumped when there is a committed minority that is angry and wants things changed. It is our job to convince the politicians that failure to pass the *GrassRoots* proposed CWP and gun law reforms will make us an-

gry, and that we are committed voters.

**We must not use threats or be impolite, we merely need to politely show we are committed to our cause.** The politicians must be taught that organized and angry gun owning voters will "remember in November" and vote against politicians that vote against reasonable gun law reforms. The way to do that is not to threaten, because talk is cheap. The way to

teach anti-gun politicians is to vote them out of office!

**Gun owners must not allow themselves to be taken for granted.** We must support any politician that supports our gun rights and oppose all that do not, regardless of party affiliation. Only when we truly support and value our gun rights first and foremost will we then be rewarded with politicians who support our gun rights.



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## The High Road: Principle First

On Wednesday, May 16, 2001, the NRA bill to eliminate the one pistol every 30 days law was considered by the House General Laws Subcommittee. *GrassRoots* leadership was there. When the bill came up for consideration, Rep. Mike Easterday, the Subcommittee Chair, had questions about the bill. Neither the bill's sponsor (Rep. Ron Fleming) nor any other *pro-gun* rights organization was there to help answer Rep. Mike Easterday's questions. Fortunately, Rob Butler, the *GrassRoots* VP and Legislative Director, was there to help get this bill through the subcommittee.

Rep. Easterday was concerned that the bill as originally drafted would leave requirements on purchasing more than one pistol every thirty days only upon law enforcement agencies and licensed private security companies. Rep. Easterday saw Rob Butler in the room and asked Rob to comment. Rob explained why the provision that Rep. Easterday was concerned about was indeed unnecessary, and that it would require law enforcement agencies to complete additional

paperwork that individual purchasers would not have to complete. The Subcommittee was satisfied with Rob's answers and voted to amend the bill by deleting the unneeded section of law.

Next, the Subcommittee took testimony from anyone interested in H. 3405, the bill to repeal the one pistol every thirty days bill being considered. Rob Butler was the only person to speak on the bill and had this to say on behalf of *GrassRoots*:

*GrassRoots recognizes this bill will help restore the rights of the good people of SC. Existing law is unconstitutional. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to our US Constitution bars the infringement of the right to keep and bear arms, and any rationing of that right is an infringement of that right. H. 3405 is a good bill*

*GrassRoots urges all organizations that support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and the right to effective self-defense to stand united and send this honorable*

*body a message that is loud and clear on where we stand on this issue.*

*GrassRoots is proud to support this bill, and we urge all pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment organizations to do so too. We told our members this was a good bill and asked them to support this bill in our official newsletter. We now urge this subcommittee to report favorably on H. 3405. Thank you.*

*GrassRoots* was at the subcommittee hearing to help get *pro-gun* rights legislation passed. It does not matter whether *GrassRoots* proposes the legislation or some other organization proposes it. If it is *pro-gun* legislation, *GrassRoots* will support it. To see how NRA leadership treats *GrassRoots* proposed gun rights legislation, please read "The Enemy Within Our Midst" on page \*\*.

The official *GrassRoots* statement of support and call for unity sure sounds a lot better than "we have taken a position of NEUTRALITY" doesn't it?

*(Continued from page 13)*

Owners of South Carolina state that they strongly support S.261 as it came from the Senate Subcommittee." The motion was seconded by R. T. Moore. *Opposition to supporting S. 261 (the best pro-gun rights and pro self-defense legislation seen in SC in years) was led by GOSC President Rick Daniel, the same Rick Daniel who had denied opposing S. 261 earlier.* After much discussion of the motion to strongly support *pro-gun* S. 261, it passed on a vote of 9-4. NRA membership let its voice be heard loud and clear. The vote of the GOSC BOD lets the Senators know that NRA members in SC want S. 261 passed.

Unfortunately, GOSC President Rick Daniel continues to falsely discredit S. 261 and *GrassRoots* in an

attempt to intentionally confuse people and kill *pro-gun* S. 261, even though more than two thirds of the GOSC BOD voted to strongly support it. In the most recent issue of the GOSC official newsletter, it stated it is only a "rumor" that SLED takes the position that a firearm in a vehicle in a rest area with rest rooms is a felony violation of Section 16-23-420. The newsletter stated it is only a "rumor" that SLED takes the position that a firearm in a vehicle in the parking lot of a restaurant that serves alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption is a violation of Section 16-23-465.

Senators Gregory, Verdin, Bauer, and Martin were on the Senate subcommittee that held public hearings on S. 261. These Senators heard

SLED representative Captain Joseph Dorton testify at the public hearings. These Senators heard SLED agree that SLED does indeed interpret the above laws as reported by *GrassRoots*. That is why these Senators decided to amend S. 261 to better protect the good people in South Carolina from the existing bad gun laws that need to be fixed. Why would these Senators have recommended amending these laws if SLED had not testified as reported by *GrassRoots*? Why would the full Senate Judiciary Committee vote to adopt the amendments proposed by the subcommittee if SLED had not testified as reported by *GrassRoots*? The simple answer is they wouldn't have. These Senators heard SLED's testimony and decided that

*(Continued on page 27)*

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## **Midlands Area**

#1 Flea Market Hwy 1

Allstate Insurance Claims 172 McSwain Dr

Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr, Lexington

Cooper's Corner Exxon/Hardee's/Laundromat/Car Wash  
1910 S Lake Dr, Lexington

CVI-Cablevision Industries 1125 B Ave, W Cola

First Community Bank 5455 Sunset Blvd, Lexington

Hair Cuttery 3028 Charleston Hwy

Old Cherokee Amoco 1104 N Lake Dr, Lexington

Ramada Inn West I-26 & US Hwy 378, W Columbia

SC Farm Bureau 724 Knox Abbot Dr, Cayce

Sansbury Eye Center 205 Columbia Ave

SMI Steel 310 New State Rd, Cayce

Taco Bell - All Midlands Locations

The Factory Outlets - All Midlands Locations

Wendy's 1410 Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo

## **Darlington**

Henry's Pantry 438 N Main St

## **Easley**

Goodwill of Upper SC 5155 Calhoun Memorial Hwy

## **Florence**

Rack Room Shoes Florence Commons Center

## **Fountain Inn**

Burger King 1101 N Main St

## **Georgetown**

Beverage Depot 254 St Delight Rd

Edward Jones Investments 936 Front St

Georgetown Art Gallery Inc 732 Front St

Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St

Georgetown Seafood 1902 Highmarket St

Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, & Greer 604 Front St

Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front St

Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket St

Prince George Framing & Gallery 805 Front St

Thomas Cafe 703 Front St

Tomlinson's Department Store 806 Front St

## **Gilbert**

First Community Bank of Gilbert 4325 Augusta Hwy

## **Goose Creek**

Berkeley SPCA Adoption Center 431 St. James Avenue

## **Greenville**

AAA Supply 203 Haywood Rd

Burger King 1513 Poinsett Hwy

Comfort Inn 545 N Pleasantburg Dr

CPM Federal Credit Union

Rogers Stereo 525 Woodruff Rd

UPS Customer Counter 291 Fairforest Way

**Greenwood**

Burger King  
Cross Creek Mall  
Dixie Drive-In 600 Montague Ave  
Greenwood Bank & Trust

**Hartsville**

Belk Department Store  
Bellsouth Mobility 114 W. Carolina Avenue  
H and R Block

**Hollywood**

Piggly Wiggly  
Honea Path  
Little General Convenience, Hwy 176

**Jefferson**

B&M Grocery Hwy 151 South

**Lancaster**

Lancaster Motor Co. 1616 Charlotte Hwy.

**Lugoff**

Food Chief 840 Hwy 1 S

**Manning**

Bank of Clarendon 106 Brooks Street  
Freedom Finance, Inc 14 N Mill St

**Marion**

Donut Hole

**Mauldin**

Golden Strip Mirror and Glass 343 Miller Rd

**Monck's Corner**

Scotsman Conv. Store 1446 South Live Oak  
The Berkeley Independent 320 E. Main Street

**Mt. Pleasant**

Pantry Pride 2171G Hwy 17 N

**Mullins**

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

**Murrells Inlet**

Inlet Square Mall 10125 Hwy 17 Bypass & Tadlock Rd  
Old House Memories Antiques

**Myrtle Beach**

707 Gun Shop 4504 Socastee Boulevard  
Advantage Realty 9622 N Kings Hwy  
A Step Ahead Computers 4501 Socastee Boulevard  
Dixie Discount Beverage S Kings Hwy  
Federal Express 1600 Stockholder Ave  
Galleria Liquors 9658 N Kings Hwy  
Golf Dimensions 2301 Highway 17 S. N. Myrtle Beach  
Klig's Kites 4824 Hwy 17 S, N Myrtle Beach  
Klig's Kites Kings Hwy, Surfside

Lube Express 2216 Glenn's Bay Road Surfside Beach  
Remax at the Coast 2423 Hwy. 17 South  
Schlotzsky's Deli 812 S Kings Hwy  
Shell Lamp Outlet 9600 F3 North Kings Hwy.  
Smith & Wesson Outlet Factory Store Broadway at the Beach  
Surfwood Office Supply 809 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N Myrtle Beach  
VPS Geo. Bishop Parkway  
White Realty, Inc. 210 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. South N. Myrtle Beach

**Pacolet**

Pacolet Express 441 N Hwy 150

**Pawley's Island**

Tuesday Morning 364 Hwy 17 N

**Rock Hill**

Three Bells Beauty Salon 803 Willowbrook Ave

**Seneca**

Carquest Auto Parts 507 N First St  
Hometown Food Store N Walnut St

**Spartanburg**

Progress Lighting 110 Corporate Drive  
Westgate Mall 205 W Blackstock R

**Summerville**

Maxway Boon Hill Rd  
North Main Market 1301 N Main St  
Summerville (cont'd)  
The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

**Sumter**

Belk Department Store  
Black River Electric Cooperative 1121 N Pike Rd W  
Boykin Air Conditioning Services 845 S Guignard Dr  
CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd  
Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261  
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E Calhoun St  
H & S Wholesale 200 S Harvin St  
Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N Main St  
Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E Liberty St  
Jessamine Mall 1057 Broad St  
Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd  
Manchester Farms 3525 Old Hwy 521 N. Dalzell  
SAFE Federal Credit Union 180 Wesmark Blvd  
Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 S  
Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St  
Time Finance Co. 31 Liberty St  
Tri Star Storage II/Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard Hwy

## Swansea

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 W First St

## Timmons ville

Bojangle's Famous Chicken 721 E. Smith Street

## Walterboro

Allied Department Store 205 E Washington St

Carpet Country

Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy

Coastal Electric Cooperative 2269 Jefferies Blvd

Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy

Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N Jefferies Blvd

Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy

Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy

Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy

Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy

## Welcome Back!

**The Following Merchants Have REMOVED Signs Discouraging Law-Abiding CWP Holders From Entering Their Establishments**

B-Mart Manning

Piggly Wiggly of Chesterfield

Gloriosa Florists

Hiller Hardware

Ace Parker Tires of Sumter

Office Max - All Locations

Special Effects Hair Salon

System Plus Computers

Blythewood Feed and Hardware

McDuffie's Home Furnishings

Lowes Hardware - All Locations

Rush's Restaurants

McCall's Supply

Little Pigs Barbecue

Chamber of Commerce Walterboro

Discount Auto Parts

Domino's Pizza on Two Notch

Cost Cutter's Barber Shop

Dixie Furniture in Walterboro

Walterboro Chamber of Commerce

Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies

Walterboro McDonalds

Burger King Walterboro

Warshaws Men's Shop

Perkin's Family Restaurant

Food Chief Store #22

Crosby Herndon Music

Thyme Out Exxon

Greenville Carmike Cinemas

If It's Paper

Best Stop Stores (pending)

Denny's Restaurants

Burlington Coat Factory

Collins Jewelry

Wal-Mart #2214 in Columbia

Lee's Grocery

Spann's Store

Becknell Cleaners

Camden Gas and Oil

Granger in Columbia

Food Lion of Ravenel

Ed's Paint Center

Jim Hall's Auto Service

Central True Value Hardware

Gerry's & Things

Ben Satcher Motors

Wicker World, Myrtle Beach

Jones Department Stores

Pro-Glo Body Shop, Sumter

Granny's Cafe, Walterboro

Blythewood Pharmacy

Sav-Way Convenience Stores

Grady Miller's Honda

Circle K/Smile Gas in Sumter

Logan's Appliance Center, Bishopville

Wal-Mart 2245 Ashley Crossing, N.

Charleston

B and D Grocery, Rembert

Spee Dee Cash, Sumter

Piggly Wiggly, Lexington

Lube Express, Surfside Beach

Horry Telephone Cooperative

Piggly Wiggly, Ladson

Heavenly Ham #B2 Myrtle Beach

H and R Block Manning

Beach Ford Myrtle Beach

Freedom Finance Sumter

Food Chief Johnsonville

Food Chief Pamplico

Frankie's Fun Park Lexington

Buddy's Pizza and Subs Pelion

Custom Pizza Co. Chapin

Dick's Pawn Shop N. Myrtle Beach

Hay Tire Co., Charleston

New Country Corner, Manning

Caper House, Saluda

Bi Rite, Swansea

Sub Terminal, Aiken

Low Country Ford, Summerville

Hair Cuttery, Harbison Blvd, Columbia

Dick's Pawn Shops, Myrtle Beach

Target, Myrtle Beach

Goodys, Myrtle Beach

Wal Mart Supercenter, Florence

Will Mart Convenience Stores

Rod's Pawn and Jewelry, Conway

Hootie's Hunting/Fishing Supplies, Aiken

Rainbow Gas Garden, Aiken

AAA Marine, Pickens

Money Man Pawn, Low Country

HBJ Home Furnishings, Spartanburg

McDonald's, Whiskey Rd, Aiken

Maryland Fried Chicken, Little River

Main Street Diner, Cottageville

Boozer Lumber, Columbia

H&S Oil Company, Andrews

HBJ Home Furnishings, Spartanburg

Wal Mart, Simpsonville

Rivers Pharmacy, Williston

State Farm Insurance/W. Church St. Leesville

Kroger Sav-On, Irmo

Saluda Farm and Garden Supply, Saluda

Clarendon Co. Chamber of Commerce, Manning

*Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law-Abiding Citizens please notify GrassRoots. This list maintained by GrassRoots volunteers. Please report corrections to: GrassRoots South Carolina, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260, or E-mail [merchants@scftrarms.org](mailto:merchants@scftrarms.org)*



### Would you like to be a CWP Instructor?

If so, *GrassRoots South Carolina* is interested in hearing from you!

*GrassRoots* has discussed at it's monthly meetings the possibility — if there was sufficient interest — of offering Instructor classes to it's members.

If you are interested in becoming a CWP instructor, send your answers to the following questions to Larry Coble by e-mail: [lcoble@logicsouth.com](mailto:lcoble@logicsouth.com), or by post: c/o *GrassRoots South Carolina*, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260-6383.

*Level of interest.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ interested

a) definitely b) very c) somewhat d) slightly

*Costs.* Costs of instruction range from \$150 to \$450 depending on the instructor and the size of the class.

(*GrassRoots* may be able to subsidize some of these costs or organize the class in such a way as to reduce costs. )

What cost could would you be willing to pay to become a certified instructor?

a) \$450 b) \$350 c) \$250 d) \$150 e) \_\_\_\_\_

*Location of class.* Depending on interest, we may be able to host classes in various parts of SC. However, we may only have sufficient interest to schedule one or two centrally located classes.

### How far would you be willing to travel?

*Note: classes are two days in length.*

a) 50 miles b) 100 miles c) 150 miles d) 200 miles e) only locally

Please write in your present location in SC.

*NRA Pistol Instructor Training is two (full) days; it is typically offered on weekends.*

### Is this suitable for you?

a) yes b) no

If no, please write in days or times that would be suitable:

Please add any other limitations or concerns so that we can start compiling information to see if this is a viable project. If you know of any Training Counselors located throughout SC please let us know their names, locations, and contact information.

### Absolute Truths About Guns?

- You can never have enough guns.
- No matter how many guns you have, you think you never have enough.
- No matter how few guns you have, your wife thinks you have too many.
- Lee and Dillon users will never see eye to eye.
- You can never have enough reloading equipment.
- The holster that fit perfectly at the gun shop doesn't fit right once you walk out the door with it.
- Of all the guns you drag out to the range, you'll wish you had "the one" you left at home that day.
- Wheelguns will never get a stove-pipe or failure to feed.
- You can't miss fast enough to win.
- If the government says you can't have it, that's all the more reason to get it.
- Buy new guns but keep the old, one is silver and the other's gold.
- Guns will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no guns.
- You can never be too rich, or too well-armed.
- An armed society is a polite society.
- There are VERY polite people at Gun Shows.



(Continued from page 1)

classroom instruction, pass a SLED written test to prove knowledge of the laws regarding self-defense and lethal force, and finally pass a SLED approved firearms competency test at the shooting range. South Carolina concealed weapon permit holders are the proven good guys, not the criminal element. Please keep this in mind when considering the proposed changes in S. 261.

S. 261 accomplishes five major goals. First, S. 261 takes existing SC law and makes technical changes to prevent the legislative entrapment of otherwise law abiding citizens. Second, S. 261 reforms existing law to embrace the best available research regarding good people carrying concealed weapons. Third, S. 261 brings existing law into line with federal law. Fourth, S. 261 reforms existing law to eliminate unconstitutional provisions. Fifth, S. 261 ensures fair and adequate notice to concealed weapon permit holders with a self-defense weapon that their presence is prohibited.

#### **GOAL 1: Preventing Legislative Entrapment**

The Senate subcommittee hearing testimony on S. 261 initially was of the opinion that current SC law allowed a person to carry a self-defense firearm in their closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk virtually anywhere in South Carolina under Section 16-23-20(9). What the subcommittee found is that the law is not clear on that issue. Testimony from SLED was to the effect that a person with a firearm in the closed glove box, console, or trunk while at a highway rest area, a parking lot of a publicly owned building, a private or public school, or the parking lot of a nice restaurant was committing a crime. The Attorney General's office has issued a non-binding informal opinion with a different view.

The issue is not which government interpretation of the law will eventually be upheld in a court of

law. The core issue is why the people of South Carolina should be subjected to the risk of prosecution, imprisonment, and being barred for life from ever possessing any firearm merely because the law is so unclear and conflicting as to constitute legislative entrapment? If government officials charged with enforcement of the law can not be sure of the true meaning of our statutes, how is the average person in South Carolina supposed to know? This confusion constitutes legislative entrapment, and leads to problems of selective enforcement and prosecution. S. 261 fixes problems of legislative entrapment with respect to South Carolina firearms laws.

South Carolina law should be clear as to what constitutes a crime. People are entitled to be spared from prosecutions based upon unclear and conflicting laws. It is the General Assembly's responsibility to write laws that clearly inform the people as to what constitutes a crime. Much of S. 261 is directed to making technical changes to existing law to make existing law clear. Such changes will protect otherwise law abiding people and reduce claims of selective enforcement and prosecution brought about by unclear laws.

#### **GOAL 2: Embracing the Best Available Research**

S. 261 eliminates many of the statutorily unauthorized areas for CWP carry. The best available research shows that virtually all mass public murders now occur in areas where CWP holders are prohibited from carrying self-defense weapons, e.g., schools and publicly owned buildings. While it might be defensible to retain such statutory prohibitions if such prohibitions were merely benign, the fact of the matter is that such statutory prohibitions are not benign. Such statutory restrictions are actually counter productive to promoting the health and welfare of the people in South Carolina and create a potential for tragedy in South Carolina.

Thus, unless there is a good reason to prohibit CWP holders from carrying self-defense weapons, such as in places where prisoners are present (e.g., prisons, jails, police stations, etc.), then the statutory CWP carry prohibitions should be repealed. Failure to do so only jeopardizes the health and welfare of the good people in South Carolina.

#### **GOAL 3: SC Law vs. Federal Law**

S. 261 brings South Carolina law into line with federal law respecting firearms in schools. Federal law does not prohibit all firearms from schools. Federal law excepts both armed law enforcement officers and SC CWP holders from the "Gun Free School Zones" law. S. 261 would have SC do likewise.

#### **GOAL 4: Eliminating Unconstitutional Provisions**

S. 261 will eliminate one of the unconstitutional provisions existing in the current concealed weapon permit law. One unconstitutional provision is that a person be a resident of SC for one year prior to obtaining a CWP. The United States Supreme Court held it was a violation of a person's constitutional right to interstate migration (travel) for a state to require a one year residency to qualify for welfare benefits. See *Shapiro v. Thompson*, 394 U.S. 618 (1969). If the unenumerated constitutional right to interstate migration (travel) is protected against a one year residency requirement, surely the enumerated constitutional right to keep and bear arms would be protected also.

#### **GOAL 5: Providing Fair and Adequate Notice of a Crime**

S. 261 will ensure that CWP holders be given fair and adequate notice that their presence is not legally permitted by standardizing the signs used to post premises against the carrying of concealable weapons. Every person deserves fair and adequate notice of what constitutes a crime.

Last, but not least, SLED does not oppose any of the provisions in S.

(Continued from page 23)

261. With that said, let's now discuss the specific sections of S. 261.

### **SPECIFIC DISCUSSION TOPICS IN S. 261:**

#### **Section 1 of S. 261:**

This section amends Section 10-11-320 to clearly provide that a person may possess a pistol in the closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk of a vehicle, even if the vehicle is on the capital grounds. This change is recommended to protect members of the General Assembly, and others, from prosecution for parking in the parking garage on the capital grounds.

This section also amends Section 10-11-320 to except CWP holders from the prohibition against possessing firearms on the capitol grounds. This amendment was proposed and adopted by the Judiciary Committee. This amendment was proposed as a "poison pill" in an attempt to kill S. 261 because it is thought that most politicians will oppose this amendment. Thus, this amendment was supported by our opponents in an attempt to kill S. 261, and by our supporters because it is the right thing to do.

#### **SECTION 2 of S. 261:**

This section amends Section 16-23-20(9) to provide that if a person carrying a pistol pursuant to this subsection needs to open the closed glove box, console, or trunk of the vehicle to retrieve a driver's license, registration, or proof of insurance, and does so while in the presence of a law enforcement officer, that no violation of the law requiring that the glove box, console, or trunk be closed has occurred. This change is recommended to protect people from being cited for a violation when merely retrieving needed paperwork. Senator Reese, the primary sponsor of this bill, reported just such an occurrence happening in his district.

This section also amends Section 16-23-20 to provide that law enforcement officers may carry firearms anywhere within the state, that off duty

law enforcement officers from out of state may carry in SC, and that retired and previously commissioned law enforcement officers who successfully complete a SLED approved firearm certification program annually may carry in SC.

#### **SECTION 3 of S. 261:**

This section amends Section 16-23-420 in the following ways:

Subsection "A" is amended to eliminate the prohibition on possessing a firearm on the property of a publicly owned building. The prohibition of carrying a firearm *into* a publicly owned building is left intact. This change is recommended to allow possession of a long gun in the trunk, gun rack, or inside of a vehicle when in the parking lot of a publicly owned building. This change would protect hunters, trap, skeet, and target shooters with long guns in their vehicles from prosecution for stopping at rest areas or any other government office.

Subsection "D" is amended to except CWP holders from this section of law and to remove the requirement that a student be married to qualify for an exemption. Federal law excepts SC CWP holders from the prohibition of possessing a firearm on school property. This section brings SC law into line with federal law, and it is needlessly discriminatory to require that a student be married to qualify for an exemption.

Our laws and school policies should be based upon the best available evidence. S. 261 takes advantage of the best available research (published in Dr. John Lott's book *More Guns, Less Crime*) which shows that virtually all mass public murders now occur in areas where CWP holders are prohibited from carrying self-defense weapons, e.g., schools and publicly owned buildings. Thus, unless there is a good reason to prohibit CWP holders from carrying self-defense weapons, such as in places where prisoners are present (e.g., prisons, jails, police stations, etc.), then

the statutory CWP carry prohibitions should be repealed. Failure to do so only jeopardizes the health and welfare of all good people in South Carolina, especially our children's.

Some might argue there should be no exceptions to the "zero tolerance" policy against guns in schools. But, that ignores the obvious. Law enforcement officers who openly carry guns are already excepted. Additionally, more and more schools are requesting that armed law enforcement officers be stationed at schools in an attempt to better protect our children. These requests concede that more guns in schools provide a safer school for children. Obviously, it's not the guns, but who has the guns, that matters. CWP holders with concealed weapons help provide additional safety for our children, and at no additional cost to tax payers.

A school's "zero tolerance" policy is aimed at immature students and is intended to increase student safety. Current SC law does not discriminate between legally licensed adult CWP holders and children illegally possessing a gun in a school. Children illegally in possession of a pistol in school are a legitimate safety concern. Legally licensed adult CWP holders with hidden self-defense weapons are not. Anyone under 21 years of age is already legally forbidden to possess a pistol, so the legitimate concern of immature students having guns in classrooms continues to be supported by this change.

Federal law acknowledges the obvious differences between immature students and legally licensed adult CWP holders, so should South Carolina law. Israel used to have problems with terrorists attacking children in schools to punish the community. Israel learned that good people with guns in schools was all that was needed to stop the attacks upon their children. Prohibiting CWP holders from possessing hidden self-defense weapons does not increase student safety, but it could be responsible for

allowing a mass public killing to continue that might have been prevented if CWP holders had not been barred from schools. Why increase the risk to our children's lives?

Subsection "F" is added and would provide that rest areas and state parks not be posted against the carrying of concealed weapons by CWP holders. South Carolina has had problems with crime at rest areas. The SC DOT's response to crime at rest areas was to close rest areas without rest room facilities. The SC DOT alternative will have the unintended consequence of forcing tired drivers to continue driving instead of pulling into a rest area to stop and stretch their legs and get revitalized. This alternative is counter productive to improving the health and safety of the people in SC. A better solution would be to allow good people the means to effectively defend themselves against criminals and thereby force the criminals to go elsewhere. This addition would ensure that CWP holders could carry into rest areas, which has the desired effect of lowering violent crime rates for all people.

Subsection "G" is added and would clearly provide that a person is allowed to possess a pistol in the closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk of a vehicle, even if the vehicle is on the premises or property of a school or publicly owned building. This change would protect teachers from prosecution under SC law who have a pistol in their vehicle while traveling to and from work, but park in the school's parking lot. This change would also protect parents from prosecution under SC law who pick up and drop off their children at school. This change would also protect people from prosecution who must conduct business with any government office and who drive to such office.

#### **SECTION 4 of S. 261:**

This section amends Section 16-23-430 in the following ways:

Subsection "A" is amended to except CWP holders from this section of law which prohibits firearms on school property. Federal law excepts SC CWP holders from the prohibition of possessing a firearm on school property. This section brings SC law into line with federal law.

Our laws and school policies should be based upon the best available evidence. S. 261 takes advantage of the best available research (published in Dr. John Lott's book *More Guns, Less Crime*) which shows that virtually all mass public murders now occur in areas where CWP holders are prohibited from carrying self-defense weapons, e.g., schools and publicly owned buildings. Thus, unless there is a good reason to prohibit CWP holders from carrying self-defense weapons, such as in places where prisoners are present (e.g., prisons, jails, police stations, etc.), then the statutory CWP carry prohibitions should be repealed. Failure to do so only jeopardizes the health and welfare of all good people in South Carolina, especially our children's.

Some might argue there should be no exceptions to the "zero tolerance" policy against guns in schools. But, that ignores the obvious. Law enforcement officers who openly carry guns are already excepted. Additionally, more and more schools are requesting that armed law enforcement officers be stationed at schools in an attempt to better protect our children. These requests concede that more guns in schools provide a safer school for children. Obviously, it's not the guns, but who has the guns, that matters. CWP holders with concealed weapons help provide additional safety for our children, and at no additional cost to tax payers.

A school's "zero tolerance" policy is aimed at immature students and is intended to increase student safety. Current SC law does not discriminate between legally licensed adult CWP holders and children illegally possessing a gun in a school. Children ille-

gally in possession of a pistol in school are a legitimate safety concern. Legally licensed adult CWP holders with hidden self-defense weapons are not. Anyone under 21 years of age is already legally forbidden to possess a pistol, so the legitimate concern of immature students having guns in classrooms continues to be supported by this change.

Federal law acknowledges the obvious differences between immature students and legally licensed adult CWP holders, so should South Carolina law. Israel used to have problems with terrorists attacking children in schools to punish the community. Israel learned that good people with guns in schools was all that was needed to stop the attacks upon their children. Prohibiting CWP holders from possessing hidden self-defense weapons does not increase student safety, but it could be responsible for allowing a mass public killing to continue that might have been prevented if CWP holders had not been barred from schools. Why increase the risk to our children's lives?

Subsection "C" is added and would clearly provide that a person is allowed to possess a firearm in the closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk of a vehicle, even if the vehicle is on the property of an elementary or secondary school. This change would protect teachers from prosecution under SC law who have a pistol in their vehicle while traveling to and from work, but park in the school's parking lot. This change would also protect parents from prosecution under SC law who pick up and drop off their children at school.

#### **SECTION 5 of S. 261:**

Section 16-23-465 is amended to clearly provide that a person is allowed to possess a firearm in the closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk of a vehicle, even if the vehicle is on the premises of a business which sells alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption. It is

further amended to allow long guns to be possessed outside of the business, although still on the premises. This change would protect anyone with an otherwise lawfully possessed firearm in their vehicle, including hunters, trap, skeet, and target shooters with their long guns in their vehicles, from prosecution merely for stopping to eat at a nice restaurant with an otherwise lawfully possessed firearm.

#### **SECTION 6 of S. 261:**

Section 23-31-210(1) is amended to change the definition of South Carolina resident to a definition consistent with case law and federal law, e.g. Federal Firearms Purchase Form 4473.

#### **SECTION 7 of S. 261:**

This section amends Section 23-31-215 in the following ways:

Subsection "A" is amended to change the number and size of photographs required to be submitted with an application to obtain a CWP. SLED's needs have changed since the passage of this law, and this change accommodates SLED's needs and removes the burden on applicants of obtaining non-standard size photographs. This subsection is further amended to allow a person who can not submit a complete set of fingerprints due to medical impossibility to obtain a CWP if all other requirements are met.

Subsection "F" is amended to eliminate the unconstitutional one year residency requirement to obtain a CWP. Since applicants must pass an FBI fingerprint check, pass federal and state background checks, get the local sheriff's favorable recommendation, pass a SLED approved class covering South Carolina law on self-defense and use of lethal force, and prove firearms proficiency in a SLED dictated course of fire, there is no additional risk to the safety of people in South Carolina.

Subsection "K" is amended to require a CWP holder to identify one's self as such and to produce one's CWP for a law enforcement officer

only if carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23. This change would clarify existing law to provide that CWP holder's shall be treated as any other person would be when not carrying a concealable weapon.

Subsection "M" is amended to eliminate most of the areas listed as unauthorized areas for CWP holders to carry a concealable weapon. The best

available research shows that liberal concealed weapon permit carry laws lower violent crime rates for all people, not just those who have CWP's.

The best available research also shows that virtually all mass public murders now occur in areas where CWP holders are prohibited from carrying self-defense weapons. While it might be defensible to retain such statutory prohibitions if such prohibitions were merely benign, the fact of the matter is that such statutory prohibitions are not benign. Such statutory restrictions are actually counter productive to promoting the health and welfare of the people in South Carolina and create a potential for tragedy in South Carolina. Thus, unless there is a good reason to prohibit CWP holders from carrying self-defense weapons, such as in places where prisoners are present (e.g., prisons, jails, police stations, etc.), then the statutory CWP carry prohibitions should be repealed. Failure to do so only jeopardizes the health and welfare of the good people in South Carolina.

The changes in subsection "M" acknowledge that CWP holders are not a threat to public safety by eliminating government offices and meetings from the list of unauthorized areas.

Under current law, private property rights are being abrogated by the gov-

ernment. The changes in subsection "M" merely recognize and restore the rights of private property owners to control their own property. The changes recommended in subsection "M" will not allow CWP holders to carry concealable weapons onto private property if the owner does not want concealable weapons allowed on their property.

Under current law, a parent's and consumer's right to choose the safest environment for themselves and their families is being abrogated by the government. The changes in subsection "M" will allow parents and consumers the right to choose the safest environment for their children and themselves through the use of the free market in choosing day care, pre school, and medical care facilities. Freedom obligates the government to get out of the lives of the people unless there is a compelling public good to protect. As described above, the best available research establishes there is no compelling public good being served by restricting where CWP holders can legally carry self-defense weapons.

Subsections "P" and "Q" are amended to mirror the changes regarding required photographs and fingerprints proposed for initial CWP applications and apply them to renewal applications, too. See subsection "A" of this section above.

Subsection "S" is added to require a CWP holder who moves out of South Carolina to surrender his or her CWP to SLED, and provides that such CWP is null and void. This subsection was requested by SLED.

#### **SECTION 8 of S. 261:**

This section amends Section 23-31-235 to require the standardization of signs posted to prohibit the carrying of concealable weapons onto property. Issues of size, placement, and content are addressed. This section protects innocent CWP holders by ensuring that a CWP holder is provided fair and adequate notice that his or her prop-





ence is prohibited.

#### SECTION 9 of S. 261:

This section amends Section 51-3-145(G) to except CWP holders from the prohibition of possessing a firearm in any park or facility under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT). Firearms are presently authorized for

hunters in designated Game Management areas and other areas designated for the use of firearms. This change would allow CWP holders to possess self-defense weapons in wilderness areas and other property under the control of PRT. PRT does not oppose this change.

Section 51-3-145(G) would be further amended to clearly provide that a

person is allowed to possess a firearm in the closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk of a vehicle, even if the vehicle is on property under the control of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. This change would protect visitors to parks from prosecution for having a pistol in their vehicle's closed glove box, closed console, or closed trunk.

## State Farm Finally Admits Mistake!

State Farm's cancellation of a Chapin family's homeowner's insurance because of having a safe place to shoot on their property was reported in past *GrassRoots* Newsletters. For the last year State Farm not only denied any wrongdoing, but even made false statements implying the family's place to shoot was a commercial shooting range. State Farm hoped the false allegations would cause the local uproar over their anti-gun stance to



Chapin Homeowner  
Gary Atkinson

just go away. But, the State Farm issue finally caught the attention of the national pro-gun media and State Farm was forced to address it. Articles in *Gun Week* on July 1, 2001 and July 20, 2001, by *Gun Week's* Senior Editor Dave Workman, reveal that State Farm finally admits they made a mistake in South Carolina.

The *Gun Week* article quoted Dan Hattaway, an official at State Farm's headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois, as saying "We didn't see a big issue with regard to gun ownership prior to the South Carolina case.

Maybe we were really asleep as far as the issue is concerned, but we are now well aware of the issue." Hattaway acknowledged that "a mistake was apparently made." Hattaway then tries to minimize State Farm's initial anti-gun stance by saying "If we're guilty of anything, at worst it would be bad judgment—in a single case. I think what we need to do is communicate better with our independent agents."

State Farm had the opportunity to correct their anti-gun stance a year ago when this matter first came to light, but State Farm refused to do so. Instead, State Farm sent officials from their national headquarters down to South Carolina in an attempt to sweep this problem under the rug and tell us State Farm did nothing wrong. These State Farm officials told us that State Farm insured gun owners against the theft of firearms and that meant State Farm supported gun owners. But, insuring against the theft of unused firearms is not the same as supporting the right of people to actually use those firearms at a safe shooting place on their property. That would be akin to insuring farm machinery while stored in the barn, but not if using the farm machinery in the field, and then

claiming State Farm supported farmers and farming.

It is only because of *GrassRoots'* persistent exposure that the issue finally came to national attention. State Farm is now trying a different approach. Now, they blame the agent. The agent may be a convenient scapegoat for State Farm to use, but a year ago they stated the agent did what she was supposed to do.

The lesson to be learned here is that gun owners should not accept anti-gun policies from private businesses. If gun owners were to boycott anti-gun businesses, those businesses would be forced to choose be-



Range View

tween their anti-gun policies and profits. Remember, money talks, and businesses listen carefully when it does. Thanks to *GrassRoots*, State Farm was forced to abandon their initial anti-gun stance.

Mike Walguarnery

(Continued from page 16)

for the good of the people of South Carolina, existing law needed to be made unambiguous. That is why

these Senators adopted the *GrassRoots* CWP and gun law reform proposals as their own.

**Beware of the enemy within our midst because the greatest threats to our freedom come from those who pretend to be our friends.**

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