

January 30, 2007

## Thune/Nelson Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Bill

Dear Colleague:


We are writing to invite you to cosponsor a bill establishing a national standard under which a person may carry a concealed firearm in every state if that person possesses a valid permit in their home state. The bill is a companion to H.R. 226, which Congressman Cliff Stearns of Florida has introduced in the House. During the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, an identical bill (S. 3275) had 25 cosponsors. A copy of the Thune/Nelson bill is attached.

Law-abiding citizens have a right to arm themselves in order to defend against the threat of violence. A state's boundary should not be the factor that limits a law-abiding individual's ability to defend themselves. Reliable empirical evidence suggests that right-to-carry (RTC) laws help drive down the murder rate. That is why a large number of states have moved to establish RTC laws. In 1986, only eight states had "shall issue" permit laws, but by 2006, 37 states had established "shall issue" permit laws. In fact, according to the National Rifle Association, which supports this legislation, 48 states have laws permitting some form of concealed carry.


The Thune/Nelson bill simply requires states to recognize each others' concealed weapon permits, much like they recognize drivers' licenses. Under this bill, the laws of each state restricting where concealed firearms may be carried would still apply. Out-of-state individuals with valid permits traveling to or through a state that does not issue permits would be prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm in certain areas, such as police stations, schools, and courthouses, among others. This bill is a common-sense measure that will strengthen public safety.

We hope that you will join us in cosponsoring this bill to increase the safety of all law-abiding Americans. If you would like to cosponsor this bill, please call Jason Van Beek in Senator Thune's office at 224-2321 or Joe Britton in Senator Nelson's office at 224-6551.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE  
United States Senator



BEN NELSON  
United States Senator

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 388

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 25, 2007

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BURR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. LOTT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. NATIONAL STANDARD FOR THE CARRYING OF**  
4 **CERTAIN CONCEALED FIREARMS BY NON-**  
5 **RESIDENTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United  
7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926C  
8 the following:

1 **“§ 926D. National standard for the carrying of certain**  
2 **concealed firearms by nonresidents**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision  
4 of the law of any State or political subdivision thereof,  
5 a person who is not prohibited by Federal law from pos-  
6 sessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm and  
7 is carrying a valid license or permit which is issued by  
8 a State and which permits the person to carry a concealed  
9 firearm (other than a machinegun or destructive device)  
10 may carry in any State a concealed firearm (other than  
11 a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped  
12 or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, subject  
13 to subsection (b).

14 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State other than the  
16 State that issued the license or permit described in  
17 subsection (a) issues licenses or permits to carry  
18 concealed firearms, a person may carry a concealed  
19 firearm in that State under the same restrictions  
20 which apply to the carrying of a concealed firearm  
21 by a person to whom that State has issued such a  
22 license or permit.

23 “(2) OTHER LIMITATIONS.—If a State other  
24 than the State that issued the license or permit de-  
25 scribed in subsection (a) does not issue licenses or  
26 permits to carry concealed firearms, a person may

1 not, in that State, carry a concealed firearm in a po-  
2 lice station, in a public detention facility, in a court-  
3 house, in a public polling place, at a meeting of a  
4 State, county, or municipal governing body, in a  
5 school, at a professional or school athletic event not  
6 related to firearms, in a portion of an establishment  
7 licensed by that State to dispense alcoholic beverages  
8 for consumption on the premises, or inside the ster-  
9 ile or passenger area of an airport, except to the ex-  
10 tent expressly permitted by the law of that State.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
12 at the beginning of chapter 44 of title 18, United States  
13 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to  
14 section 926C the following:

“926D. National standard for the carrying of certain concealed firearms by non-  
residents.”.

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