

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



**NRA**

*Office of the Executive Director*  
**CHRIS W. COX**

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
1233 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
233 Cannon H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 5 million members of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and our tens of millions of supporters, I am writing to urge you to vote “yes” on H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, and H.R. 4477, the Fix NICS Act of 2017. This legislation will protect the safety and Second Amendment rights of all Americans.

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act would simply affirm that law-abiding Americans who are qualified to carry concealed handguns in one state can also carry in other states that allow their own residents to do so.

Currently forty-two states broadly recognize the right of law-abiding citizens to carry concealed handguns for self-defense. In fact, all 50 states allow some form of concealed carry. Among these states, reciprocity or recognition of concealed carry licenses from other states is already the norm.

As concealed carry has flourished in the United States, nationwide violent crime rates have plummeted to historic lows. As a population, licensed concealed carriers are among the most law-abiding of Americans.

However, there are jurisdictions that wrongly harass travelers for legally exercising their constitutional rights. Decent, law-abiding Americans have been arrested and thrown into jail for innocent mistakes over concealed carry reciprocity. H.R. 38 would eliminate the confusing patchwork of state laws that make it difficult for law-abiding gun owners to travel across the country with their firearms for personal protection.

Where the constitutional rights of Americans are being abridged when they travel from state to state, Congress has both the authority and the responsibility to act. That is the essence of H.R. 38.

The Fix NICS Act would add accountability to the current system of reporting information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) on those who are federally prohibited from acquiring or possessing firearms.

This bill does not add any new disqualifications to federal law nor does it remove any, and it is concerned entirely with enforcing the current prohibitions. It also improves the current system for appealing erroneous NICS denials by imposing a 60-day deadline for the government's response to those appeals, which currently may drag on for a year or more.

The NRA will continue to support efforts to make the background check system instant, accurate and fair for law-abiding Americans simply seeking to exercise a fundamental right.

The time has come for Congress to put federal law on the side of all law-abiding Americans who simply want to protect themselves and their families. **This is why NRA gives this legislation our strongest support. Due to the importance of this issue to NRA members and gun owners throughout the country, votes on this legislation will be scored when considering future candidate evaluations. In addition we will notify our members and supporters across the country.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris W. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris W. Cox  
Executive Director