



NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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NNEDV

October 12, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-5117

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Democratic Leader
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515
Fax: (202) 225-4188

Re: Domestic Violence Organizations OPPOSE the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011 (H.R.822)

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), our 56 state and territorial domestic violence coalition member organizations which represent over 2,000 shelters and programs, and the millions of victims and families they serve, I write to express our opposition to H.R.822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act. This legislation would require states to recognize concealed carry permits granted by other states, even those that have weaker requirements for who can carry a concealed firearm, effectively reducing the gun laws in all states to the "lowest common denominator" of the states with the weakest laws on carrying concealed weapons. This bill would weaken some states' concealed firearm regulations and significantly compromise the safety of domestic violence victims in communities across the nation.

NNEDV was instrumental in assisting in drafting and passing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994, 2000 and 2005, and co-chairs the current national VAWA reauthorization efforts. NNEDV has testified before Congress and federal agencies on issues affecting victims of domestic violence, and works to support strong legislation at the state, local and federal level. NNEDV also provides technical assistance to state domestic violence coalitions in implementation of public policy and in the development of a coordinated community response to domestic violence. NNEDV and its member coalitions are greatly concerned about ensuring that our nation's gun laws keep firearms out of the hands of domestic violence offenders.

Domestic violence affects 1 in 4 women throughout their lifetime with devastating results, and all too often results in homicide. On average, three women are killed every day by a current or former intimate partner and a firearm is the weapon most commonly used in these homicides. Studies have shown that the presence of firearms significantly increases the lethality of incidents of domestic violence. In recognition of this grim reality, many states have chosen to enact firearm prohibitions that go beyond current federal law. These state-specific restrictions on convicted perpetrators help to ensure the ongoing safety of the victims, their families, and communities. H.R.822 would effectively override the laws of these states and others and force them to accept concealed carry permits from states that issue permits to perpetrators who are not prohibited by federal law—putting the safety of victims at greater risk.

We join numerous law enforcement organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association, in opposing this legislation. Making it easier for perpetrators to travel from state to state with concealed weapons will compromise the safety of domestic violence victims, their families, police officers, and our communities. On behalf of the millions of victims of domestic violence and their families, I urge you to oppose this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

Sue Else
President