

March 10, 2016

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S1389
Attachment 4

To: Idaho State Affairs Senate Committee

Attn: The Honorable Curt McKenzie

Sir –

I wish to comment upon the pending legislation your committee will soon take up for a vote.

Senate Bill 1389 (a proposed amendment to the Concealed Weapons law) allowing “permitless concealed carry” *is a step in the right direction!*

I appeal to the committee to consider one basic question:

- Will continuing to require law-abiding citizens to register and license themselves to carry weapons have ANY effect on crime?

Criminals, by definition, do not obey laws. Yet, Idaho requires the law-abiding citizen – who seeks only to defend himself from criminals who do not obey the law – to go through training, undergo a background check and pay money in order to avail himself of the God-given right to self-defense.

For anyone who fears that “permitless concealed carry” will mean murder and mayhem, I encourage a close look at Vermont – a state that has had “permitless” concealed carry on the books for a long time; yet, Vermont has the lowest violent crime rate in the country.

While Idaho already has one of the lowest rates for violent crime, we can do better. Permitting law-abiding citizens to carry concealed without the licensing process will help to drive crime rates even lower.

Criminals prey upon the weak – they seek easy targets. Permitless concealed carry in Idaho would create doubt in the minds of criminals because ANY law-abiding citizen could now be armed – not just those who went to extraordinary lengths to obtain a permit.

I hope this opinion is in some way helpful.

Best regards,

Russell Wright
US Marine Corps – 1986-1990, Sgt