

# Brady Campaign



To Prevent Gun Violence

**SENSIBLE GUN LAWS SAVE LIVES**

**NATIONAL CONCEALED WEAPON LEGISLATION**  
**TRAMPLES STATE LAWS AND ENDANGERS THE PUBLIC**  
*Forces States to Allow Concealed Carrying Even By Dangerous People*  
*Barred By State Law From Possessing Guns*

The so-called “Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act,” S.845, would actually trample “states rights” and endanger public safety by allowing the carrying of loaded, concealed firearms outside a person’s home state, **even by persons legally barred from possessing guns** in the state where the carrying occurs.

This legislation would apply in the 48 states that allow concealed carrying of firearms and would effectively allow the concealed carry laws of one state to nullify the restrictions on gun possession of other states.<sup>1</sup> In the state where the carrying occurs, only the state laws governing the locations where concealed guns may be carried would be enforceable against the gun carrier, but not laws regulating who may lawfully possess guns.

- The legislation overrides state laws by mandating that states allow the carrying of loaded, concealed weapons by anyone permitted to carry concealed weapons in another state. States would be forced to allow a person to carry concealed weapons **even if the person carrying the concealed weapon is barred from possessing guns** under the law of the state in which they wish to carry. Under the legislation, to carry concealed weapons people need only meet the minimum requirements of federal law to possess a gun, be permitted in their home state to carry a concealed weapon, and abide by a state’s concealed carry location restrictions.
- The legislation undermines state concealed carry licensing systems by allowing out of state visitors to carry concealed firearms **even if those visitors have not met the standards for carrying a concealed weapon** in the state they are visiting. For example, some states require a person to show that they know how to use a firearm or meet minimum training standards before obtaining a concealed carry license. These states would be forced to allow out of state visitors to carry concealed weapons even if they do not meet that state’s concealed licensing standards.
- For example, Alaska allows adult residents to carry a concealed weapon **without a license, background check, or training** as long as they are allowed to possess a gun under weak Alaska gun laws – **even if they have committed many violent misdemeanors or have committed misdemeanor sex offenses against minors**. This legislation would force the 48

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<sup>1</sup> S.845 would not currently apply in Illinois and Wisconsin, which bar the concealed carrying of firearms.

states that allow concealed carrying to allow many Alaskan violent misdemeanants to carry concealed guns, even if a state completely bans gun possession by such persons.

- The legislation forces states to allow concealed carrying even though studies have repeatedly shown that laws allowing the carrying of concealed firearms have not reduced crime and, if anything, have **increased violent crime, including murder and robbery**. Numerous examples of crimes and dangerous acts committed by concealed carry licensees are at <http://www.bradycenter.org/xshare/pdf/facts/ccw-crimes-misdeeds.pdf>.
- The legislation forces states to allow concealed carrying based on out of state permits even though state concealed carry licensing systems have endangered public safety by **providing licenses to dangerous people who commit violent acts with their firearms**. Surveys of concealed carry licensees have found that many have been arrested for crimes after they were granted a license. In addition, license holders have received licenses without proper background checks or training. For example, Utah granted licenses to thousands of non-residents, including citizens of foreign countries, and many received licenses without any background checks or proof of adequate firearms training.

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