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CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS

RULES COMMITTEE TALKING POINTS

H.R.822,

**“THE NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT
OF 2011”**

AMENDMENT # 2



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011

I thank the Chairman for the opportunity to explain my amendment to H.R. 822, the “National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011.” My amendment #2 ensures that any person seeking to possess a concealed weapon in a state other than the state that issued the concealed carry permit must provide at least 24 hours advance notice to ~~law enforcement officers~~ *the state designated law enforcement agency* of their intention to carry or possess a concealed handgun in another State.

States must retain their ability to know which individuals are allowed, under this newly proposed bill, to possess and carry concealed weapons within their borders. This measure would require an individual to notify out of state law enforcement, 24 hours in advance, of their intention to possess or carry a concealed weapon into the borders of a State in which those individuals are not licensed.

I believe that an amendment requiring prompt and adequate notification to law enforcement officials ^{in the state agency} regarding an out of state individual's attention to carry a concealed weapon is necessary to protect the safety of the public and to protect the safety of the men and women who protect the public.

Currently, there are several states that have implemented time requirements to ensure the safety of their citizens when dealing with a variety of weapons. This amendment will create a standard that is sure to provide law enforcement with the information desperately needed to keep the public safe from unknown harms.

This is a fundamental states rights issue. The measure before us today takes away a state's right to set their own criteria for determining who should be allowed to carry a fire arm within their borders.

Texas has robust handgun concealed carry laws and these laws would only undermine the criteria established by my home state. This measure would bolster the protections that Texas and many other states seek to implement to protect their citizens from gun violence. Texas standard to attain a permit is currently higher than current federal law and the requirements of a number of other states.

As it stands Texas already honors the permits of 39 other states; which only emphasizes that this can be address at the state level. One of my main concerns is that the lives and safety of men and women working in the line of duty will be compromised if we fail to effectuate this amendment requiring a 24-hour advance notice of out of state individuals carrying concealed weapons.

Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line for us every day. Since 2009 least 122 law enforcement officers have been shot and killed, with an average of one officer killed by gunfire each week. Since the beginning of 2011, guns have killed at least 30 law enforcement officers. It is important that the very men and women who put their lives on the line are the very men and women who have instant access to information on whether or not the individual they are approaching during a routine traffic stop is armed.

I urge the committee to support my amendment to H.R. 822 in order to ensure that we act fervently to protect the lives of those who risk their lives for the general public on a daily basis. Again, this amendment will strengthen a State's ability to continue its efforts to protect the safety of its citizens and law enforcement officials.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.