

THE Gun Owners

42 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2017

GOA-Backed Concealed Carry Bills Gaining Steam

The time for national concealed carry reciprocity may finally be here.

Two similar bills have now been introduced in Congress:

- HR. 38, by North Carolina Republican Richard Hudson; and,
- S. 446, by Texas Republican Senator John Cornyn.

Both bills would ensure that victims of crime, like Pennsylvania concealed carry holder Shaneen Allen, do not face decades of imprisonment merely because they traveled into another state while armed for protection.

Both bills have been endorsed by Gun Owners of America and remain a top priority.

Consequently, we have been pound-



REP. HUDSON PRAISES GOA'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN GETTING COSPONSORS FOR H.R. 38

"A lot of that [success] has to do with grassroots organizations like Gun Owners of America pushing to get more cosponsors."

-- Rep. Richard Hudson, January 31, 2017

GOA Executive Director Erich Pratt with the House sponsor of concealed carry reciprocity (H.R. 38).

ing the pavement on Capitol Hill to garner more cosponsors.

Our lobbyists have visited scores of offices. Our members and activists have inundated their legislators' offices with emails, postcards and letters.

The results have been encouraging.

As this newsletter goes to press, the Hudson bill has over 175 cosponsors; the Cornyn bill has 35.

GOA addresses Congress in favor of Concealed Carry Reciprocity

In late January, Gun Owners of America hosted a briefing for legislators and their staffs.

GOA Executive Director Erich Pratt spoke briefly to the congressional audi-

Continued on page 2

Momentum Growing for Hearing Protection Act

by John Velleco

Momentum has never been stronger to reverse a more than eighty-year-old law making it extremely difficult, and costly, for citizens to own firearms suppressors.

Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) introduced the Hearing Protection Act (S. 59 and H.R. 367, respectively) at the start in the 115th Congress.

Under the HPA, anyone who can legally buy a gun can buy a suppressor — which would be quite a change from

existing law since these devices are currently lumped in the same category as machine guns and sawed-off shotguns.

Purchasing one requires elaborate background checks and transfer fees — even though at their core, suppressors are nothing more than tubes that muffle sound.

This legislation has tremendous grassroots support.

But it also has the strong support of someone who has the ear of President-elect Donald Trump: the president's son, Donald Jr., who referred to the

impact a noise reduction device can have on the user's and spectator's hearing as "a safety issue."

Contrary to pop culture myth, a sup-

Continued on page 6

Inside:

- **GOA-backed Constitutional Carry becomes law in the 13th state (page 3)**
- **GOA sponsors Capitol Hill hearing on concealed carry reciprocity (page 4)**
- **Trump's signature repeals the first of several Obama gun controls (page 8)**

GOA-Backed Concealed Carry Bills Gaining Steam

Continued from page 1

ence, emphasizing that concealed carry reciprocity will save the lives of gun owners and their families.

He related the story of a New Hampshire concealed carrier, who was disarmed by the laws of Massachusetts.

This gun-owning Army veteran was murdered while doing work in the latter state, all because he (as a law-abiding citizen) chose to leave his gun at home.

Rep. Hudson then approached the podium to talk about his concealed carry reciprocity bill, H.R. 38.

Rep. Hudson reported that we had secured a lot of cosponsors on the bill in a very short time — in the period of less than a month.

And he thanked GOA's members for their help.

"A lot of that [success] has to do with grassroots organizations like Gun Owners of America pushing to get more cosponsors," Rep. Hudson said.

Take notice. That is the statement from a U.S. Representative who is thanking YOU for all your hard work.

We at Gun Owners of America are only as powerful as the voice of our membership.

So when you "pound" on your legislators to take action, it makes a HUGE difference on Capitol Hill.



GOA's Erich Pratt and Shaneen Allen addressed a congressional audience on the subject of concealed carry reciprocity in late January. Both speakers addressed the dangers that gun control can pose to law-abiding Americans.

GOA introduces Shaneen Allen to Congress

After Rep. Hudson spoke, Shaneen Allen took to the podium. A victim of gun control herself, she delivered a very compelling personal story to the congressional audience.

Her story highlights the very real need for nationwide concealed carry reciprocity.

You may remember that Shaneen was jailed in New Jersey for merely possessing a firearm for self-defense.

A mother of two, and a concealed carry permit holder from Philadelphia, Shaneen was brand new to the "gun movement" in 2013.

She had obtained her concealed carry permit after being robbed twice.

And she thought, mistakenly, that concealed carry permits were like driver's licenses — that she could take her

legally-permitted weapon into any other state.

But sadly, she had only begun carrying her concealed firearm for a week when a New Jersey officer handcuffed her on the night she was arrested.

It was thanks to groups like Gun Owners of America that Shaneen Allen is a free woman today.

GOA members and activists deluged New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's office with petitions that he give Shaneen a full pardon.

And that he did in 2015.

More reasons to love the Hudson, Cornyn bills

Both the Hudson and Cornyn bills will protect residents who come from Constitutional Carry states.

If a gun owner lives in a permitless carry state, he or she will be able to carry a firearm while traveling in any state in the union.

And the Hudson bill, in particular, contains a special gift for residents of severely anti-gun states.

If a gun owner living in "occupied" California, New Jersey, or New York gets a carry permit from Utah or Florida, then (under H.R. 38) he or she will be able to carry a firearm in any state in the country.

Imagine that! Residents of horribly anti-gun states being able to carry a firearm in all 50 states — including their home state!

For all of the above reasons, the Hudson and Cornyn reciprocity bills will make Americans safer — by allowing them to exercise their God-given right to protect themselves, their families, and their communities. ■

How to Place GOA



You can help protect gun rights for future generations by placing Gun Owners of America in your will or estate plans.

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- A. The sum of \$_____; or
- B. _____ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

GOA Helps Make New Hampshire the 13th Constitutional Carry State!

by Erich Pratt

It finally happened.

In February, New Hampshire became the 13th state to join the Constitutional Carry Club.

Gun Owners of America lobbied hard — very hard — alongside various local groups to make New Hampshire the next Constitutional Carry state.

And after many years of effort, our work came to fruition with the stroke of Gov. Chris Sununu's pen.

Passage of SB 12 means that law-abiding gun owners will no longer be forced to seek permission to carry concealed or be registered like sex offenders before exercising their right to protect themselves.

This is great news for Granite Staters. But the long, hard campaign wasn't easy — not in the slightest.

Grassroots Activism Trumps Anti-Gun Bloomberg Money

Gov. Sununu's signature culminated a multi-year battle for Constitutional Carry.

It was a struggle where there were dozens of grassroots alerts, in conjunction with many state gun rights groups, and two gubernatorial vetoes by the previous governor.

There was a lot to overcome.



Alan Rice, who is a GOA Life Member and the spokesman for GOA in New Hampshire, meets with Gov. Chris Sununu (right) after he signed Constitutional Carry into law.

We're grateful to the many people and organizations in the state who worked with us to achieve this extraordinary victory.

But we particularly want to thank Alan Rice, the chief spokesman for the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition, who represented GOA in the halls of the legislature and in the governor's office.

A GOA Life Member, Rice is a fully sworn police officer and serves as the firearms instructor and armorer for a mid-size, rural police department.

Gun owners can view Rice's testimony before the legislature on GOA's YouTube page at: www.youtube.com/user/GunOwnersofAmerica.

"Bloomberg's Billions" Going Down the Drain

Getting Constitutional Carry through the legislature meant that Granite Staters had to overcome LOTS of outside money.

Michael Bloomberg's minions hired 11 New Hampshire lobbyists, including the Leftist law firm of Demers and Blaisdell.

They ran a full page ad in a big city newspaper.

They tried to generate grassroots activism into Sununu's office, using Social Media.

But all of this was to no avail.

Consider the action alert on the "angry mommies" Facebook page, which Bloomberg started in New Hampshire.

That alert, urging people to contact Gov. Sununu, got only SIX LIKES.

Six!

It's clear that while the gun grabbers are well-financed, they don't have the grassroots behind them.

Gun Owners of America is working in about a dozen other states this year to enact permitless carry laws.

Please stay tuned. ■

Are you a GOA Life Member yet?



LIFE MEMBER

Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of \$50 (*with the remainder to be billed to you*) or as a quarterly debit to your credit card for \$50 until your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.

When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

Gun Owners of America
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202
Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-321-8585
www.gunowners.org

GOA ON THE FRONT LINES



GOA Brings Shaneen Allen to testify before Congress on Gun Rights

Gun Owners of America brought Shaneen Allen, a victim of gun control, to a GOA-sponsored briefing on Capitol Hill. The purpose was to educate congressmen on the need for concealed carry reciprocity around the country.



GOA's John Velleco and pro-gun Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) with Shaneen

Approaching the Capitol where Shaneen Allen would address a congressional audience in favor of concealed carry reciprocity.



Shaneen Allen delivers a powerful message against gun control and for concealed carry reciprocity



The House sponsor of concealed carry reciprocity, Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC), said he feels good about the chances of getting reciprocity legislation through the Congress, and he thanked GOA and its members for pushing the bill so fervently.



Shaneen Allen speaking with GOA's Larry Pratt and pro-gun Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY)



GOA ON THE FRONT LINES

GOA Lobbied Hard to Repeal the Social Security Gun Ban

"We've already made the request to the Trump administration to look at repealing this."

-- Erich Pratt,
Executive Director of GOA,
told FoxNews.com (January, 2017)



GOA Pushing Constitutional Carry Across Country



▲ Gun Owners of America has lobbied in almost a dozen states this year for permitless carry. GOA's John Velleco is pictured here (seated) with Texas Rep. Jonathan Stickland, who is the sponsor of the Texas Constitutional Carry bill, and Rachel Malone of Texas Firearms Freedom.

Enacting Campus Carry in Ohio

Kasich Signs Campus Carry Bill

GOA activists lit up the phone lines urging Gov. Kasich to sign the bill.



▲ Some pundits were certain that Ohio Gov. John Kasich would stab gun owners in the back and veto GOA-backed campus carry. But GOA activists lit up the phone lines, urging Gov. Kasich to sign a bill allowing campus carry for concealed carry permit holders — legislation that he signed in late December.

GOA-Supported Constitutional Carry Becomes Law in New Hampshire

"I'm very grateful for the work that the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition and Gun Owners of America provided in generating grassroots support to [pass] SB 12, Constitutional Carry."

- NH State Rep. John Burt



GOA Argues for Concealed Carry Before the Supreme Court



GOA Brief Goes to the Supreme Court

Argues Restrictive Carry Laws are Unconstitutional

▲ GOA filed an *amicus* brief in the U.S. Supreme Court, supporting a petition in *Peruta v. California*. In challenging the state's restrictive "good cause" requirement for concealed carry licenses, GOA argues that California's laws clearly infringe the Second Amendment.

Momentum Growing for Hearing Protection Act

Continued from page 1

pressor does not “silence” a weapon. It does, however, decrease the sound level by around 30-35 decibels by slowing and cooling the pressurized gases propelling the bullet.

In most cases, the noise level would be approximately what the shooter experiences wearing common hearing protection without a suppressor.

In other words, while a suppressed shot might not be heard ‘round the world,’ it is far from silent. (In addition, a suppressor does not affect the mechanical noise of the firearm or the sonic crack of supersonic ammunition.)

Gun control groups are, predictably, outraged over even this modest safety bill.

“Silencers are military-bred accessories that make it easier for criminals to take innocent lives,” said Kristen Rand, Legislative Director of the Violence Policy Center in a statement last year.

The facts don’t line up with Ms. Rand’s position. Though suppressors have been legal to own for more than one hundred years, they are rarely used in the commission of a crime.

Suppressors are not preferred by criminals. As the National Shooting Sports Foundation points out, this is “likely due to the fact that they do not silence firearms like in the movies, they are ineffective on revolvers, they prevent the proper function of most semi-automatic handguns without the addition of a special piston system and they make firearms longer and heavier, which makes them more difficult to conceal.”

So while suppressors protect the hearing of shooters, including the young and hearing-impaired, they are of almost no value to criminals or mass shooters. Even homemade suppressors are rarely used in crimes.

They are effectively banned for one reason — because gun grabbers want to make it more difficult for gun owners to exercise their rights.

Ironically, in some countries which have the strictest gun control in the world — such as the UK, France and Norway — ownership of suppressors is



GOA's John Velleco discusses the Hearing Protection Act with the bill's sponsor, Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID).

encouraged by the authorities and considered to be “polite.”

In the U.S. House, GOA is pushing to garner enough cosponsors to make it impossible to ignore by the Republican leadership. There are currently more than 120 cosponsors and GOA is working to get that number closer to two hundred.

On the other side of the Capitol, GOA is working on the companion Senate legislation, where its prospects are a little more dicey.

The new Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer (D-NY), will filibuster this bill (thus requiring a 60-vote super majority)

ty) faster than you can say “suppressors aren’t silencers”!

But Republicans hold a 52-48 majority — and there are ten Democrats up for reelection in 2018 who come from states carried by Donald Trump — so there is a window of opportunity in the new Congress.

And having the vocal support of Donald Trump, Jr., will help to educate the public on what he views as a “health issue” for gun owners.

As for the support of the new president, Trump Jr. predicts that if it makes it to his desk, “he is obviously going to be for it.” ■



GOA produced a video to help educate Congress and the public on the truth about suppressors. The video demonstrates that while suppressors reduce the decibel level of a firearm, they are nothing like what Hollywood depicts them to be. (Pictured here are GOA's John Velleco and Chuck Hinder.)

Zinke Lifts Lead Bullet Ban on First Day in Office



by Michael Hammond

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke arrived at his job in downtown Washington on his first day in office — literally riding a horse.

Now, Zinke has become the first Trump Cabinet Secretary to move to undo Barack Obama's anti-gun legacy.

On Day One, Zinke repealed Obama's ban on hunting with lead bullets on federal lands — and a companion fishing tackle ban as well.

This Obama pseudo-rule was enacted as Obama went out the door — without following the niceties of federal law governing formal rulemaking. But that

made the illegal rule much easier to repeal.

The irony is that anti-gun advocates like Obama pretend to support the rights of law-abiding hunters and fishermen.

And yet, with no more elections in front of him, Obama had no problem implementing a "quicky" lead bullet and fishing tackle ban which were widely viewed as intended to discourage hunting and fishing — at the behest of Leftist environmentalists.

Said Zinke: "Over the past eight years ... hunting and recreational enthusiasts have seen trails closed and dra-

matic decreases in access to federal lands across the board. ...It worries me to think about hunting and fishing becoming activities for the land-owning elite. This package of secretarial orders will expand access for outdoor enthusiasts and also make sure the community's voice is heard."

As a boy, Zinke grew up swimming and fishing in Whitefish Lake in his home state of Montana.

Unlike Leftist bureaucrats from places like Chicago and New Jersey, Zinke understands the plight of Americans who live in the West, where up to 90% of all lands are owned by the federal government.

Zinke's actions come immediately on the heels of Donald Trump's signature on legislation to repeal the Social Security gun ban.

Under this now-defunct Obama-era rule, the government could troll Social Security disability rolls for Americans whose guns could be taken away — including those with "anxiety" or those who had someone take care of their finances.

And we have been promised additional gun ban repeals, such as a repeal of the Obama guidance which would put gun collectors in prison for as little as a single gun sale without a dealer's license. ■

Michael Hammond is GOA's Legislative Counsel.

Trump Signs GOA-Sponsored Repeal of Social Security Gun Ban

Continued from page 8

- Repeal restrictions on interstate firearms sales;
- Repeal the Hughes amendment; and much, much more.

But the first step is to thank Donald Trump for taking ... the first step.

GOA did this in the days following the repeal of the Social Security gun ban and activated its grassroots network across the country to thank Trump, as well.

There's a lot to accomplish.

At Gun Owners of America, we are grateful that you are standing with us. ■

Did You Know?



You can give to GOA through a recurring monthly donation! Just select the amount you'd like to contribute each month!

Payments can be made through PayPal or by Credit Card at
www.gunowners.org/monthly



Trump Signs GOA-Supported Repeal of Social Security Gun Ban

by Larry Pratt

It's been said that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a first step.

That first step occurred on February 28.

On that day, President Donald Trump signed a congressional

joint resolution to repeal Barack Obama's noxious Social Security Gun Ban.

This was one of GOA's priorities — and we are so grateful that, on short notice, our grassroots were able to quickly deluge Capitol Hill and the White House with 30,000 emails in support of this gun ban repeal.

Obama's unconstitutional "executive action," pushed in the wake of the San Bernardino shooting, would have allowed the Social Security Administration to troll the records of federal disability recipients — otherwise known as Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Gun Owners of America thanked President Trump for repealing the Social Security gun ban and activated its grassroots network across the country to thank him, as well.

If one's disability check was processed by another person — for whatever reason — one would lose their guns.

If SSI recipients had PTSD, ADHD, Alzheimer's, or even "anxiety," Social Security would appoint a guardian for them — and, like 257,000 veterans, they would lose their guns.

Gun owners could forget about passing on their guns as an inheritance to their children and grandchildren.

Take into consideration that, under these circumstances, one would lose their guns at the hands of a bureaucrat who had no medical degree and had never met the gun owner.

The cost of appealing a bureaucrat's action would proba-

bly be in excess of \$10,000.

And, finally, the SSI gun ban would have been the inevitable precursor for gun bans for Social Security old age, Medicare, Medicaid, and ObamaCare recipients.

But Obama's vile Social Security Gun Ban is now "history" — thanks to a pro-gun majority in Congress and President Trump's signature.

But this is just the first step.

More Needed to Repeal Obama's Anti-gun Legacy

Gun owners already have Donald Trump's promise that he will overturn the Obama guidance effectively outlawing gun collecting.

Obama's executive action did this by defining "engaged in the business" of buying and selling firearms to include the sale of as few as one or two guns.

In addition, it is expected that Trump will overturn Obama's executive actions by doing the following:

- Withdrawing the U.S. from the UN Arms Trade Treaty;
- Overturning the State Department's "Gunsmith Ban";
- Declaring, by executive action, that "safety-free" school zones are unconstitutional — and that parents and teachers should have the right to defend our kids, rather than leaving them as helpless "sitting ducks";
- Obliterate Obama's illegal NFA regulations which make it effectively impossible for many in New York, California and other places to obtain a Class III license;
- Withdrawing the U.S. from suits seeking to uphold unconstitutional federal and state gun bans and gun restrictions; and,
- Repealing the succession of gun and ammo import bans — going all the way back to George H.W. Bush's semi-auto import ban.

Gun Owners of America is also working with Congress to pass pro-gun legislation, and send it to Trump's desk, so that he can:

- Defund states that impose semi-auto bans or maintain gun registries;

Continued on page 7

THE Gun Owners

Sen. H.L. Richardson (Ret.)
Founder

Tim Macy
Chairman

Larry Pratt
Executive Director Emeritus

John Velleco
Director of Operations

Erich Pratt
Executive Director

Michael Hammond
Legislative Counsel

Peter Weyrich
Director of Federal Affairs

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

**8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202
Springfield, Virginia 22151
703-321-8585**

Web Site: <http://www.gunowners.org>

The Gun Owners publication is copyrighted. But copies may be made freely with attribution, giving GOA's address, phone number and web site location.