

Letter to the Editor

Date:

To:

Recently, the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee voted to approve H.B. 1911, a bill that would allow Texans to carry a firearm without a permit. This bill can only be described as dangerous and financially irresponsible. Since 1995 the State of Texas has required every person who desires to carry a handgun to go through a background check and complete training. How do we suddenly decide that is no longer necessary? The bill states that a person who openly carries must still meet the requirements currently in place to get a license, but the passage of this bill means that no governing body would be required to oversee this and ensure people carrying a handgun know the law and meet requirements. This means that people such as felons and domestic abusers, who can easily obtain a gun without a background check through a private seller, will have the opportunity to openly carry in public.

State Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, the committee's chairman and a former police officer, said he had "grave concerns" about the proposal, adding that lawmakers needed to ensure the bill wouldn't affect law enforcement's ability to do their job. It is very clear that the passage of this bill at all **will** affect law enforcement's ability to do their jobs, and they are opposed to the bill. Finally, estimates show that if this bill becomes law, it could cost the state more than \$37 million dollars through August 2019. Texas is facing several financial issues at this time, and passing this bill when it would cost the state so much money is financially irresponsible.

It is paramount that this bill never reaches the Governor's desk. Texans, please speak out to oppose HB 1911 to ensure we have sensible gun regulations in Texas.

Sincerely,