



Unlicensed Carry is Bad for Texans and Puts Public Safety at Risk Don't Consider Unlicensed Carry During the 85th Special Session

Our Texas Law Enforcement Officers oppose this bill. - “What is being called ‘constitutional carry’ is bad public policy, is bad for public safety, and would make the jobs of our law enforcement officers more difficult and exponentially more dangerous.” -- Kevin Lawrence, Executive Director of the Texas Municipal Police Association

Unlicensed carry would make Texas' License to Carry (LTC) program optional and allow many individuals to carry handguns in public without a license, background check, or proper safety training. Under this proposal, our state would have little means of keeping guns out of the hands of felons, abusers and others who buy guns through private sellers.

Unlicensed carry requires individuals to seek out the laws on their own and understand if they are qualified to carry, since there would be no application or regulatory oversight.

If the license to carry becomes optional, over 3,000 individuals that DPS has concluded should not have a license to carry will be able to walk about openly in Texas communities with weapons because there will be no state screening process. Criminals could easily use unlicensed carry to their advantage. **In 2016 1,534 license applications were denied, 1,623 licenses were suspended, and 982 licenses were revoked in Texas. DPS did their job to help keep Texans safe. But Unlicensed carry removes state oversight on the front end so all of these people will be able to carry in public.**

Texas has been loosening firearm restrictions since 2013, but has not addressed firearm safety measures. Firearm injuries and deaths have steadily increased each year in Texas.

Firearm Injuries and Deaths in Texas

| TYPE | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Firearm Injuries/Deaths (Children/Teens) | 443 | 567 | 609 |
| Suicide by Firearm (All Ages) | 1,780 | 1,789 | 1,994 |
| Total Firearm Deaths (All Ages) | 2,788 | 2,848 | 3,203 |

Most gun owners and advocates agree that gun safety training is important. Why pass a law removing it?

According to a poll conducted by SurveyUSA, 91% of Texans support the state’s LTC law. Furthermore, the National Rifle Association's website states "At the NRA, Firearm training and education is paramount."

Unlicensed Carry will hurt small businesses.

Hundreds of Texas firearms trainers' businesses would be impacted by this change. It may even lead to closing their doors if the Legislature concludes that training is unnecessary when carrying firearms in public.

Eliminating the License to Carry will cost the state millions of dollars.

The State will lose up to \$25 million annually if the program were eliminated. Our State can't afford this loss.

There is nothing ‘constitutional’ about constitutional carry.

Texans already enjoy great freedom when it comes to gun ownership and carrying of weapons. Basic protections and oversight designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands and calling for a minimum level of training and knowledge of gun laws are consistent with the “well regulated” environment referred to in the Second Amendment.

Keep Texas Safe. Reject Unlicensed Carry