



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GUN RIGHTS
STANDING UP FOR FREEDOM
DEFENDING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Committee Hearing Date: 4/5/2021

Mrs. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Mammoser and I am the Northwest Regional Director at the National Association for Gun Rights. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our members in North Dakota regarding our support for House Bill 1293.

As a representative of the leading gun rights organization advocating for Constitutional Carry nationwide, we applaud Rep. Rick Becker and House Bill 1293 for fixing minor issues in North Dakota's Constitutional Carry law.

As originally written, House Bill 1293 would bring North Dakota into full conformity with true Constitutional Carry statutes as seen in over a dozen other states by allowing any law-abiding adult (resident or non-resident) who is able to legally possess a handgun to carry it openly, or concealed while in North Dakota.

House Bill 1293 will also allow for law-abiding adults to carry their loaded handgun openly or concealed while driving in a vehicle, codifying the AG's ruling from 2017.

As you know the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee amended the bill to add the residency requirement back in at 30 days. Although this is a step in the right direction compared to the current 1 year, it is still an infringement on law-abiding visitors and new residents' gun rights.

They also amended HB 1293 to remove the church carry portion. As we saw two years ago in Texas, countless lives could have been lost if not for a good guy with a gun. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to also remove permission requirements for carrying in churches and other places of worship.

As seen all across the nation, true Constitutional Carry legislation contains no extra requirements to carry a handgun open or concealed. If you are not prohibited from possessing a handgun, you should not be prohibited from carrying it.

Constitutional Carry should allow law-abiding citizens to carry in equal places with or without a permit. If citizens with a license are not prohibited from carrying there, neither are those without a license. Regarding restrictions on where a person can carry, Constitutional Carry legislation should remove inequalities between someone who has a license and someone who does not.

As evidenced by FBI crime statistics, states with Constitutional Carry have some of the lowest violent crime rates in the entire country. Allowing law-abiding adults to freely exercise their Second Amendment rights keeps innocent people safe, and lets criminals know they do not have free reign to commit unlawful acts of violence.

Rep. Becker's House Bill 1293 would do exactly this as originally written.

We ask that the Senate Judiciary Committee remove all restrictions to carry legally-owned firearms and pass House Bill 1293 to apply the Second Amendment right to bear arms equally to all law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.