



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

Committee Hearing Date: 4/6/2021

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 amending House Bill 1297.

As a representative of the leading gun rights organization advocating for the restoration of gun rights nationwide, we applaud Rep. Ben Koppelman and House Bill 1297 for attempting to extend concealed carry rights to law-abiding adults in North Dakota.

As originally written and introduced, House Bill 1297 will help keep innocent people safe by allowing law-abiding adults to carry their legally owned handgun in a place of worship.

A law-abiding person should not be required to disarm while going to church.

Unfortunately, we've seen in recent years that criminals have been specifically targeting churches for their sick acts of violence, whether to rob or murder patriotic Americans exercising their First Amendment rights to worship freely.

But we've also seen law-abiding worshippers equipped to defend themselves and their fellow parishioners while in a house of worship. Just over 1 year ago, 71 year old Jack Wilson in White Settlement, TX stopped the mass murder of church attendees when he bravely confronted an armed assailant inside his church.

It is no doubt that Mr. Wilson saved numerous lives that day while peacefully worshipping God in his church.

Churches and houses of worship are places of peace, and law-abiding worshippers can, and do keep innocent people safe by lawfully carrying concealed.

We ask that the Senate Judiciary Committee remove restrictions on law-abiding worshippers before passing Rep. Koppelman's House Bill 1297.

Thank you for your consideration.