

# **HB 1341**

## **Rep. Ben Koppelman- Testimony**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank You for the opportunity to introduce HB1341 to you today.

This bill is a very simple bill, it is 3 words long. It would allow concealed carry in the capitol building. Currently all our bordering states allow capitol carry. There have not been mass problems with such a policy. Even in Minnesota during the Riots and the following lawlessness on the streets of Minneapolis, law-abiding citizens in Saint Paul were still able to carry in the capitol building. I believe about 14 states allow carry in their capitol, some allow open carry, some allow concealed carry, and others allow both.

I am not sure of the exact procedure in all of these states, but I am not aware of any major issues with law-abiding citizens carrying in the capitol in any of these states.

This bill, as written, does encompass the entire capitol building. If the desire is to exclude the portion of the capitol that includes the Supreme Court, I would not object. For many years we had prided ourselves on having a capitol open to the public without metal detectors. Following the DAPL protest, someone decided to install metal detectors, which has been a great inconvenience to the public.

Many other state capitols are still open to the public. Maybe we can return to a capitol without metal detectors or not, but either way, lets let law-abiding citizens carry within the capitol and let us protect ourselves. We found a way to provide capitol security before metal detectors, and so I'm sure we could find a way to protect the capitol while not restricting the Second Amendment.

Thanks for your time, and I would request a Do-Pass on HB1341.