

Date: 1-22-21

House Judiciary Committee

Bill: HB 60, Conceal Carry Firearms Amendments

Sponsor: Rep. Brooks

Floor Sponsor:

UASD Position: Tracking with concern

This Bill: modifies provisions related to carrying a concealed firearm.

Discussion: Rep. Brooks said this bill allows people to conceal a weapon without a permit. Nineteen other state have a no required permit to conceal carry, or what is called a constitutional permit to carry a weapon. These states had zero increase in crime. The following statements were all made by the sponsor: There is a decade of research to show crime does not increase with constitutional carry. Requiring permits does not reduce the amount of crime. Concealed carry classes would be changed to gun safety classes. Individuals are still accountable for their actions without a permit. This bill would save the courts money because they would process fewer permits. Even with a concealed carry permit, it does not permit people from carrying a gun, it just makes it illegal. Concealed carry permits are not increasing safety. These permits are unnecessary because the U.S. Constitution grants citizens the right to carry a gun. 85% of the deaths from firearm deaths come from suicides.

The sponsor mentioned that he has not seen any data to indicate there is a correlation between how you carry your gun and suicide. The Supreme Court has ruled the states have the right to require concealed carry permits. This bill does not do away with the concealed carry permit because you would still need it in certain states. There are a mix of answers on whether or not law enforcement agencies support this bill. Rep. Wheatley voiced concern about stereotyping on why certain individuals may have a gun. The Utah Shooting Sports Council voiced support for this bill. The Libertas Institute of Utah supports the passage of this bill. The Utah Medical Association is opposed to the bill because of the suicide aspect of this bill and fear it would increase suicide, especially in children. Many public individuals voiced support and opposition for the bill. The Utah Fire Arms Association voiced support for this bill because this bill will not affect criminals at all. The group believes it might also increase gun ownership for individuals who were unable to attend a concealed carry class. The Western Regional Department of The National Rifle Association voiced support for this bill because of what they believe it does for law abiding citizens. The Gun Violence Protection Center voiced opposition to this bill because there is no second amendment right to a concealed carry. The National Association of Gun Rights supports this bill. The National Alliance on Mental Illness opposes this bill because of its effects on suicide.

Yeas: 8

Nays: 3

N/V: 1

Outcome: Passed out with a Favorable Recommendation