

Before the Oregon House Committee on Rules

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House Bill 3093A

Written Testimony Submitted by

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Chairman Prozanski and Senate Judiciary Committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 3093A. The Brady Campaign knows that, if enacted, this legislation would allow dangerous and untrained people from out-of-state to carry loaded, hidden guns in Oregon.

Oregon's current law for issuing concealed handgun licenses is among the weakest and most lax in the nation. Yet under this bill, Oregonians would be put at even greater risk by being forced to accept the gun carry permits of states with equally low standards. It is entirely possible that one of the reciprocal states will be Florida where standards for permits to carry guns are very lax. A recent study showed that Florida has handed out gun permits to 1,400 felons. Under HB 3093A, it's possible that each of those felons would have a permit to carry their guns in Oregon. Florida happily handed George Zimmerman a carry permit, even though he already had an arrest record and a history of violence. Zimmerman used that permit to carry a gun and kill Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old teenager. Florida's state legislature has already put its citizens in peril by allowing dangerous people to carry guns in that state. What is Florida's problem today surely will become Oregon's problem tomorrow if HB 3093A is enacted into law.

Reports have shown there are numerous other states where dangerous and prohibited people obtain gun carry permits, and some states actually allow felons to get these same gun carry permits. This is a recipe for disaster. To protect Oregon's public safety, HB 3093A should be rejected.

It is also extremely difficult, if not impossible, for law enforcement to verify out-of-state gun carry permits as those records are usually not available to law enforcement in other states. Under this bill, Oregon law enforcement will have the very difficult, if not impossible, task of ensuring that someone carrying from out-of-state is a legal gun carrier.

Therefore, the Brady Campaign strongly opposes House Bill 3093A and, on behalf of our Oregon chapters and our members, I ask today for your NO vote. I thank all the committee members for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 3093A.