

# State of Connecticut

GEORGE C. JEPSEN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

November 15, 2011

Honorable Harry Reid, Senator  
Majority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senator  
Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Leader McConnell:

As Attorney General for the State of Connecticut, I am writing to urge you to take the lead and encourage your caucuses to oppose the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act (Senate Amendment 1618 & House Resolution 822) to protect the safety of our nation's citizens.

Connecticut has one of the lowest per-capita rates of death due to firearms in the country, due in large part to our sensible gun-control laws that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals, but leave law-abiding citizens and sportsmen alone.

The Connecticut Constitution gives every citizen the right to bear arms in self defense and in defense of the state. But Connecticut law also regulates firearm sales, use and possession. Among them is a restriction that no person may carry handguns, openly or concealed, without a permit. Connecticut law further restricts eligibility for such a permit.

Federal legislation requiring Connecticut to apply the gun possession and permitting laws of other states when their residents travel to Connecticut, would undermine the legal right and responsibility of the Connecticut General Assembly to determine what laws are necessary to protect the public health and safety of its citizens.

Such a requirement would be difficult to enforce and would create an unfair burden on Connecticut and its law enforcement officials, who are required to protect the public through fair and uniform application of the law.

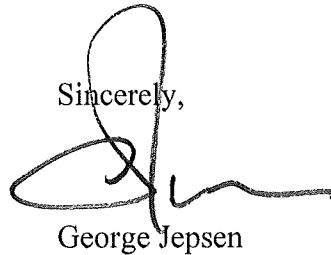
As a former state Senate Majority Leader, I was the principal co-author of Connecticut's ban on assault weapons, which makes it a felony to possess, sell or transport assault weapons in

this state, including all military-style semiautomatic firearms. I also supported a gun-seizure law, which allows police to obtain warrants and seize guns from people posing an imminent risk to themselves or others.

Connecticut has worked hard to put laws in place to help protect citizens from the scourge of gun-related violence. We respect the rights of other states to do the same. Citizens are expected to follow the traffic and public safety laws that apply when travelling to other states. There should be no exception for firearm possession laws.

As Attorney General, and the chief legal officer of Connecticut, I strongly urge you to oppose the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Jepsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

George Jepsen

GJ/pas

c: Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senator

Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator