



Oppose Permitless Carry in Florida (HB 543)

Bottom Line: Permitless carry legislation like HB 543 would allow people to carry concealed firearms in public places without a permit, criminal history check, or safety training, dismantling Florida's system of responsible gun ownership.

- ❑ **Florida's concealed weapon license requires training on how to carry firearms responsibly in public. Permitless carry would strip away this critical safety component.**
 - Florida, like most states with permit requirements, requires completion of a firearm safety course before a person can get a concealed weapon license.¹ Importantly, this training involves the live firing of a gun. Safety training ensures that permit holders are aware of responsible practices for handling and carrying guns in public. Permitless carry would remove these requirements.
- ❑ **Permitless carry would remove safeguards that help ensure only responsible gun owners carry firearms in public.**
 - To obtain a permit, a person is required to pass a criminal history check.² Because Florida does not require background checks on unlicensed firearm sales, this background check might be the only one a person receives before carrying a gun.
- ❑ **States that have weakened their handgun permitting systems have seen an increase in firearm crimes.**
 - States that have weakened their firearm permitting system have experienced an 11 percent increase in handgun homicide rates.³ States that have weakened their firearm permitting system have also experienced a 13–15 percent increase in violent crime rates.⁴
 - Conversely, states that provided law enforcement discretion to issue carry permits saw an 11 percent reduction in firearm homicide rates compared to states that did not have that discretion.⁵
 - Gun thefts from cars divert guns away from the legal market, putting families and communities at risk should the stolen gun then be used in a shooting. Cities located in states with particularly weak gun laws are associated with greater rates of gun thefts from cars.⁶

¹ Fla. Stat. §§ 790.01; 790.06.

² Fla. Stat § 790.06(6)(a); Fla. Stat. § 943.045(12).

³ Michael Siegel et al., "Easiness of Legal Access to Concealed Firearm Permits and Homicide Rates in the United States," *American Journal of Public Health* 107, no. 12 (December 1, 2017): 1923–29, <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304057>.

⁴ John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, and Kyle D. Weber, "Right-To-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis," NBER Working Papers (National Bureau of Economic Research, November 2018).

⁵ Michael Siegel and Claire Boine, "What Are the Most Effective Policies in Reducing Gun Homicides?" (Rockefeller Institute of Government, March 29, 2019), <https://rockinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/8-13-19-Firearm-Laws-Homicide-Brief.pdf>.

⁶ Megan J. O'Toole, Jay Szkola, Sarah Burd-Sharps. "Gun Thefts from Cars: The Largest Source of Stolen Guns." (Everytown Research & Policy, May 9, 2022), <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-thefts-from-cars-the-largest-source-of-stolen-guns/#:~:text=In%20cities%20that%20report%20crime,market%2C%20making%20them%20particularly%20dangerous.>