



**International Association of
Chiefs of Police**

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July 17, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), I am writing to express our strong opposition to S. 845, the Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009. This bill would weaken existing state laws by allowing an individual to carry concealed firearms when visiting another state or the District of Columbia as long as the individual was entitled to carry concealed firearms pursuant to the laws of his or her home state.

It is the IACP's belief that S. 845 would severely undermine state concealed carry licensing systems by allowing out of state visitors to carry concealed firearms even if those visitors have not met the standards for carrying a concealed weapon in the state they are visiting. For example, some states require a person to show that they know how to use a firearm or meet minimum training standards before obtaining a concealed carry license. These states would be forced to allow out of state visitors to carry concealed weapons even if they do not meet that state's concealed licensing standards.

It is the IACP's belief that states and localities should have the right to determine who is eligible to carry firearms in their communities. It is essential that state, local and tribal governments maintain the ability to legislate concealed carry laws that best fit the needs of their communities—private citizens as well as active and former law enforcement personnel.

The IACP urges you to act quickly and take all necessary steps to defeat this dangerous and unacceptable legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Laine
President