



CITY OF HOUSTON

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Mayor

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Members of the Houston Delegation
Texas House of Representatives
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: House Bill 1927

Dear Members of the Houston Delegation,

Many Texans prize their Second Amendment rights, but the Second Amendment does not provide for the right of reckless endangerment. Backers of this law often refer to it as “constitutional carry,” but sensible gun laws that require a minimal level of safety training fall well within the Constitution’s “well regulated” parameters. House Bill 1927 by Rep. Matt Schaeffer would make Texas’s License to Carry (LTC) program optional and allow individuals to carry handguns in public without a license, background check, or any safety training.

Let’s not forget that some overzealous backers of this cause menaced lawmakers in their homes and neighborhoods during the 86th session, bringing momentum for legislation to a halt. What better example do we need of this law’s peril than “constitutional carry” fanatics attempting to intimidate lawmakers to get their way?

Law enforcement organizations across Texas, including the Houston Police Department, are opposed to this measure. Frankly, it is no surprise. Police officers already have a job fraught with risk and uncertainty. HB 1927 would only compound this uncertainty. Presently, a Texas License to Carry (LTC) requires four hours of training and a requirement that an applicant demonstrate a minimum level of shooting proficiency. Under this measure, any Texan with a pulse might be carrying a weapon. Law enforcement officers would often be faced with untrained civilians in possession of guns and would be forced to quickly ascertain whether this person was a threat or a law-abiding citizen.

All Texans will likely become *less* safe if this legislation is enacted. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, handgun homicide rates increase 11% and violent crime increases 13-15% in states that weaken their permitting process. Under this bill, even a law-abiding citizen can become a danger. Someone who has literally no firearms training and has never even fired a gun could legally carry a gun. They could become a danger to themselves and others due to mishandling a deadly weapon.

Most Texans oppose this legislation. According to a poll conducted by SurveyUSA, 77% of Texas voters oppose removing the permit requirement to carry guns in public. Please join me in opposing this legislation what will only serve to endanger fellow Texans and result in needless loss of life.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Mayor

