

Matt Carnagie

From: Michael Thiede <mikethiede@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Matt Carnagie
Subject: HB 4416 -4419

Michael Thiede representing Michigan Gun Owners, a statewide not-for-profit grass roots organization, **supports** HB 4416 - HB 4419.

Dar Leaf <dleaf@barrycounty.org>

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To Freedomfirearms2@comcast.net <freedomfirearms2@comcast.net>

May 23, 2017

Dear Honorable Congressman,

I am in favor of the "Constitutional Carry" bill that you're hearing is about today. Back in 1999 and 2000 when the "Shall Issue" was a hot topic, many nay-sayers put unnecessary fear in the public. Prominent people in public offices from 25 Shall Issue states were saying that there was "Going to be blood in the streets..." or "This will turn Michigan into the Wild, Wild west...". Well, here we are in 2017 and none of that happened. If you look into the Wild West you will see a 15 year span of the roughest cattle towns in the country with very few problems. The legendary Dodge city between 1870 through 1885 had 15 homicides with 5 in 1878. Abilene had 7 total in that same time frame while Ellsworth 6, Caldwell 13, and Wichita 4 all in the same 15 year time frame. Those are not bad statistics.. Even better is the statistics of public act 381 of 2000. None of those fears came true. Just the opposite happened especially accidental discharge. In Arizona you can carry just about any way you want. How many of us take vacations there with our children.

Article 1 section 23 of Michigan's Constitution and Amendment number 9 of the US Constitution both read..."The enumeration the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.". In other words, just because it is not listed in the constitution as a right does not mean that it is not your right. Such as getting a tattoo, supporting Michigan State over Michigan, or the right to defend ones gift of life... These are natural rights that our founders were adamant about us to keep. The people I spoke to said that they are tired of government taking these right away and then selling them back to us. Then it is not a right but a privilege because we are seeking permission to exercise that act. The LGBT won a huge case involving marriage using the 5th amendment, "Due Process", and the 14th amendment, "Equal Protection under the Law". We have several exemptions to the current CPL law which gives more rights to a certain group over another. How is that equal...? Article 1 section 2 is very clear that it is not. When is the constitution going to do its job? Judges are exempt, do they train like others are asked to...? I do not hear any lobby group complaining about that. Corrections Deputies, retired police etc... All of the exempt groups have extra rights or privileges.

This Memorial Day vehicle traffic will not be allowed on the bridge because of fear that a terrorist or mentally ill will drive into the people with a vehicle. It is a new problem that we have as society. Mentally ill is a problem alone. After 12 years as the Sheriff of Barry County no one has given me an answer how to stop someone from purchasing a gun through LEIN or NCIC. I am not worried about the law abiding citizen V. Law Enforcement, I am worried about how to report someone who is known to be mentally ill and stop them before they become a danger to our public.

The CPL holder has proven themselves as worthy. Let's get rid of some of the laws that make an honest mistake a felony. We all know that the firearms laws are confusing. It's not fair to our citizens that they have to carry around an attorney just to make sure they don't end up in prison.

Thank you for listening,

Sheriff Dar Leaf
Barry County
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