



March 20, 2017

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Regarding: Assembly Bill 7 (Gipson)**  
**Position: Oppose**

Dear Asm. Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the members and supporters of Firearms Policy Coalition, I would like to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 7 (Gipson) a measure which prohibits the carrying of, and makes it a crime to carry a long gun in the unincorporated area of a county.

The Second Amendment to the US Constitution clearly enumerates a fundamental right to bear arms. None-the-less, the State of California has chosen to continue on the toward completely eliminating this constitutional right in the Golden State with the passage of laws that ban open carry and laws that are ever more restrictive on the ability to carry concealed.

In several jurisdictions, like Los Angeles County, it is nearly impossible for an average person to be approved for a license to carry a firearm. Often the applicant would have to ask permission from the County Sheriff or whoever is acting as Sheriff and not under indictment filling that position to beg for their fundamental human right to self-defense and their enumerated right to keep and bear arms. Groveling to a politician or appointee with an almost certain outcome only fuels the disdain for our institutions and encourages non-compliance.

In the 1960's, California took away the ability to openly carry a loaded firearm in an attempt to disarm members of the Black Panther Party, simply because they dared exercise their rights under the law, in protest of discriminatory practices by the California Legislature. The state would further restrict this practice in 2011, by eliminating the right to openly bear arms anywhere, except in the unincorporated areas of counties. AB 7 would be the nail in the coffin, effectively eliminating the ability to openly bear arms anywhere in the state of California.

So, if one does not have the ability to bear arms in the State of California, concealed or openly, how exactly is one to exercise their Constitutionally enumerated right to bear arms in this state?

AB 7 represents yet another unreasonable, overly-broad infringement that has no basis in public safety. Sadly, it demonstrates how out of touch the Legislature is and continues to diminish the respect the people have for the Legislature.

We ask that you summarily reject this overly broad measure that seeks to further infringe on the rights of Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. DeLuz', written over a horizontal line.

Craig DeLuz  
Legislative & Public Affairs

Cc: Author; Members of the Committee