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Office of the Attorney General

December 3, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 (H.R. 38 and S. 446)

Dear Congressional Leaders:

I write in support of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 (H.R. 38 and S. 446). I am committed to protecting the rights of responsible, law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for personal protection if they have taken the steps to become licensed in their home states. Currently, ten states refuse to recognize any out-of-state concealed carry permits, while others require fulfillment of onerous conditions before these rights are acknowledged.

This patchwork of laws is difficult or impossible to comply with, even for the most conscientious and knowledgeable citizens, and it does not further public safety. Those who have taken the steps to obtain conceal-carry permits are among the most reasonable and law-abiding citizens. The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, if adopted, would eliminate confusion and create national uniformity for concealed carry by responsible people who choose to exercise the right to keep and bear arms.

Support for Congressional action on this issue is motivated by the need for State parity and our citizens' safety. These are concepts that cannot be compromised. The Second Amendment applies to both the Federal Government and the States and should be upheld as such. *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742, 767 (2010). The "central component" of the Second Amendment right is individual self-defense. *Id.* (quoting *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 599 (2008)). This right protects "against both public and private violence." *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 594. States' refusal to recognize sister state permits, including concealed carry permits, undermines basic constitutional principles and infringes on the fundamental right to protect oneself, when traveling out of state. *See id.*; *McDonald*, 561 U.S. at 768.

Colorado respects the rights of both residents and non-residents to carry firearms when they have committed to comply with the legal requirements placed on them by their home states. I believe everyone should respect this right. I urge you to support concealed carry across state lines and respectfully ask that you enact this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia H. Coffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN

COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL

cc: Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Michael Bennet
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Doug Lamborn
Representative Ed Perlmutter
Representative Mike Coffman
Representative Jared Polis
Representative Scott Tipton
Representative Ken Buck