

**AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYORS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
FEDERAL “CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY”**

WHEREAS, the concealed carry of loaded handguns is legal in all 50 states, but each state has made its own decisions about the standards used to determine who may carry a firearm in public; and

WHEREAS, a majority of states require safety training in order to obtain a concealed carry permit, a majority of states require live-fire shooting experience in order to obtain a concealed carry permit, a majority of states block many violent misdemeanor offenders from carrying concealed weapons, and a majority of states block convicted stalkers and abusive dating partners from carrying concealed weapons; and

WHEREAS, this country has a tradition of making public safety decisions on the local level, and 30 states give concealed carry permit issuers—often local sheriffs or police—the authority to deny applicants known to pose a danger to themselves or others, perhaps after a history of domestic disturbances, arrests for assault, or mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, states not only set their own standards for getting a concealed carry permit, but also make careful decisions about which out-of-state permits will be recognized as valid, often recognizing only those permits with similar standards to their own; and

WHEREAS, twelve states no longer require any permit, training or criminal history check whatsoever to carry a concealed firearm in public, including eight that have repealed this requirement in the past three years; and

WHEREAS, concealed carry standards are not like driver’s licenses, because when you get a driver’s license, you have to pass a driving test, and receive a hard copy of a license, while concealed carry laws vary drastically by state and many states don’t require permits at all; and

WHEREAS, unlike with driver’s licenses, there are no national databases to check so law enforcement will have no way to tell whether somebody carrying a concealed gun is following the law or not,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association opposes federal “concealed carry reciprocity,” which would force each state to recognize the concealed carry standards from every other state, even those with low standards or barely any standards at all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association “concealed carry reciprocity” or any other legislation that would strip state and local police power to set public safety standards for who may carry a concealed firearm in public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association opposes “concealed carry reciprocity” or any other legislation that would put local law enforcement at risk when encountering an armed out-of-state visitor, who may be carrying with no permit whatsoever—often leaving police and sheriffs with no means to verify whether the person is carrying lawfully; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the African American Mayors Association again reiterates its support for common-sense gun legislation to keep guns out of dangerous hands, including strong standards that ensure people cannot legally carry guns concealed on city streets without proper safety training or if they pose a danger to the public.