

POLICE

Naples City

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Chief of Police Mark J. Watkins

March 13, 2013

Governor Gary Herbert
350 North State Street, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Governor Herbert,

Naples City Police Department stands with the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, and the Law Enforcement Legislative Committee in opposition to HB 76 – *Concealed Weapon Carry Amendment*.

Governor Herbert, my position is not to oppose any restriction to our Constitutional rights nor to attempt to control them. However, my position is firmly placed on the safety of the public. The current law gives, at a minimum, a base of information to the citizen on firearms and their associated dangers, laws regarding guns and the consequences of using a firearm. In other words, through education we hope to prevent citizens of our state from having to learn from their own mistakes when it comes to carrying and using a firearm. Mistakes when it comes to a lethal weapon are not something that can be reversed. It seems to me that as a state, we would be negligent to not ensure that our armed citizens are fully aware and educated about their potential actions. I am also worried that the potential enactment of HB 76 will abridge the ability of public safety officers to respond to the concerns of our residents and businesses.

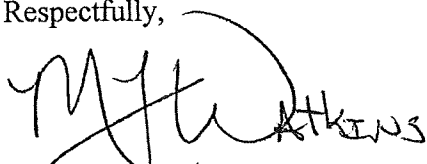
HB 76 would dramatically change Utah's concealed carry permitting process which has always been fair for the public, public safety, and concealed carry permit holders. As you recently said, "Why to try to fix a program that is not broken?"

Current law allows a person who has obtained a concealed firearm permit to carry a loaded firearm concealed or openly. A person who does not possess a concealed firearm permit may openly carry an unloaded firearm. If HB 76 is not vetoed, any person who is twenty-one years of

age or older, who may lawfully possess a dangerous weapon, would be allowed to carry a loaded firearm openly or concealed at any time, with no guidance or education to help protect them and the other citizens of our fine state.

Governor Herbert, I encourage you to veto HB 76.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Watkins', with the name 'WATKINS' printed in a smaller font below the signature.

Mark J. Watkins
Chief of Police