

GUN RIGHTS

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ISN'T IT TIME TO AUTHORIZE NATIONAL CARRY ALREADY?

The problem is the dangerous word *authorize*. Just whom do you plan to grant this enormous power to — the federal government? Would you like to give the government more power than it already has over your guns?

NOPE.

This is the only entity with sufficient reach to even consider giving such broad control over our rights. I don't know about you, but I certainly don't trust them *to authorize carry*. I don't trust them with most of the power they have usurped already.

And there's another tricky word right there — *usurped*. Significant portions of the power our government already exercises has been usurped, meaning taken without legitimate delegated authority. Remember, under our system, government can only legitimately exercise power 'we the people' have delegated to it. We've definitely not given it power to authorize national reciprocity for our concealed-carry permits. Or have we?

If you read the Constitution and take it at its word, this power seems to already exist: "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State" (Article IV, Section 1).

The problem is the background of this section. Legal precedents show states must recognize the *judicial* acts of other states, not the legislative or administrative ones. This interpretation doesn't sit well with me. It fights the plain meaning of the words. If you go by the plain meaning, the permit you now hold should be good in any state, case closed, problem solved.

Because the problem isn't resolved, your stinking permit (to corrupt a phrase from Bogart's great movie, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*) was never good elsewhere. Well, until bureaucrats and lawmakers cooked up the bewildering reciprocity schemes, where you have a list of states that may accept your "unalienable" right to arms, probably. Under their own local rules. In some places.

Reciprocity works, for the most part, because you carry discreetly, don't get noticed and nothing happens. Instead of an unfringed right to bear arms,