

## SAMPLE LETTER TO LAWMAKER

Today' s Date

Your Name  
Address  
City, State Zip  
Phone Number

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
State Capitol Building  
Room #  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

As a constituent, I strongly urge you to support two common sense measures vetoed by Governor Holden; Right to Carry (HB 349) and Reckless Lawsuit Preemption (SB 13). On September 10 and 11, 2003, you will have the opportunity to override Gov. Holden's vetoes of these bills which the legislature already passed by bipartisan votes. Missouri is currently one of only six states that does not have at least some sort of statute allowing law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for self protection. Additionally, 33 state legislatures have acted to prohibit localities from filing reckless, politically-motivated lawsuits against the lawful firearm industry.

As has been the case when Right to Carry legislation has been debated in state legislatures across the country, opponents claim that such a law will cause a surge in the state's crime rate. This is simply not the case. Such instances have not occurred in other states that have enacted nondiscriminatory Right to Carry laws that allow qualified, law-abiding citizens to obtain a permit to carry a concealed firearm for self defense. In fact, states that currently issue Right to Carry permits have lower overall violent crime rates. According to an FBI report, in states with Right to Carry laws, total violent crime is 18% lower, homicide is 21% lower, robbery is 32% lower, and aggravated assault is 11% lower. Law-abiding Missourians deserve to have this life-saving, crime deterrent available to them.

Additionally, passage of the Reckless Lawsuit Preemption bill would prohibit local governments from circumventing the legislative process by filing reckless lawsuits against lawful firearm manufacturers to recover costs related to criminal misuse of their products. Contrary to what critics are claiming, SB 13 would not affect the right of parties to sue for damages sustained from truly defective products. Moreover, a vast majority of the dozens of cases filed by cities and counties nationwide have been dismissed by the courts, further highlighting that these reckless lawsuits are based on a political agenda, rather than merit.

In closing, I again encourage you to support HB 349 and SB 13 and help ensure that law-abiding Missourians are no longer denied the fundamental right of self defense and to protect a lawful industry from politically-motivated reckless lawsuits.

Sincerely,

Your Name