



## NEWS FROM THE MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Major Cities Chiefs Denounce Combining Concealed Carry Reciprocity with the Fix NICS Act**

**WASHINGTON, December 4, 2017** – On behalf of the largest law enforcement agencies in the Nation, Major Cities Chiefs Association President J. Thomas Manger issued a statement of strong opposition to the combining of the legislation brought forward in regard to the “Concealed Carry Reciprocity” decision and the “Fix NICS Act of 2017”. While efforts to strengthen background checks are in the interest of public safety, the proposed measure to allow concealed weapons everywhere even when contrary to State law, is certainly not in the interest of public safety.

The “Concealed Carry Reciprocity” bill is both impractical and contrary to the rights of States. Moreover, it raises Constitutional questions about the authority of Congress to direct State officers. Concealed weapon permit laws have been tailored to the needs of regions and local communities over a period of many years. An attempt by Congress to preempt these State laws forces States to accept the lowest minimum standard for concealed carry across the Nation, and creates a contradiction between the standards required for State residents and State visitors.

The thousands of local permit formats would make enforcement impossible, because police officers would not be able to determine the validity of a permit issued in another State or locality. It would be impossible for law enforcement to distinguish true permit carriers from criminals and illegal guns.

Members of the House must be able to vote on these issues separately on their own merits and not tied together into one decision. Law enforcement leaders strongly support the Fix NICS Act, but we strongly condemn the proposed Concealed Carry legislation. Combing these two measures is not good government – just the opposite. This is a misguided effort to have the controversial and objectionable Concealed Carry Reciprocity legislation passed by the House under the guise of good legislation – strengthening the background check system.

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Major Cities Chiefs is a professional association of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and ten largest in Canada. The Chiefs serve more than 82 million people.