



North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police
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Cary, North Carolina 27511

PRESS RELEASE

June 6, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Raleigh - - In an emergency meeting of its Executive Board, the State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police voted on Monday, June 6th to actively oppose House Bill 746, entitled "Omnibus Gun Changes," which is slated for a floor vote in the North Carolina House later this week. Among other things, the bill would eliminate in most cases the requirement to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun. If passed, the bill would allow any person 18 years of age or older to carry a concealed handgun in any place the weapon could be carried openly.

The Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's oldest law enforcement association, with over 7,600 members in North Carolina, rarely takes a position on such bills but its leadership says this most recent bill goes too far. "It's about the safety of the public and of officers," said President Randy Hagler, a police chief and career officer, whose son is also a police officer. Currently, you must be 21 years old and have a background check before being issued a concealed handgun permit by a county sheriff. A person cannot have been convicted of certain crimes, be prohibited under federal law, be subject to a domestic violence protective order or have been treated for mental illness and be granted a permit. "Under the current law an officer knows a person with a permit has been vetted by the Sheriff of his or her county of residence. That tells an officer a lot," continued Hagler. "If this bill passes a person with any of these issues still cannot lawfully carry concealed, but it is almost impossible for an officer to find all of this out while sitting on the side of a road or standing on a sidewalk somewhere. It's just not workable."

The proposed bill has other troublesome issues, but allowing just anyone to carry concealed is the top concern of the Fraternal Order of Police.

For more information contact:

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