Constitutional Carry Spreads Across the Land

2022 is off to a good start when it comes to laws that allow gun owners to carry their handguns in public without a permit, popularly referred to as "constitutional carry." Fox 5 reported on March 11 that constitutional-carry measures in Georgia passed both the House and Senate, so now the two bills need to be reconciled before they go Governor Brian Kemp's desk. Kemp has already come out as a supporter of the measure. "It's great to see so much support for the 2nd Amendment, as the General Assembly considers bills to uphold this fundamental right. I am committed to working with both the Georgia House and Senate to get Constitutional Carry across the finish line!" he tweeted.

The Hill reported on March 12 that constitutional carry is also now the law of the land in Alabama, after Republican Governor Kay Ivey signed a bill that allows permitless carrying of firearms. Georgia and Alabama join 20 other states that allow constitutional carry. Fox News reported on March 14 that Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed a similar constitutional-carry bill into law, making Ohio the 23rd state in the country to do so.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) applauded the move and brought attention to a constitutional-carry bill currently being sent to Indiana governor Eric Holcomb for his signature. On March 8, the NRA posted on their Institute for Legislative Action website a message encouraging members to contact the governor asking him to sign the constitutional-carry bill into law. As the NRA explained on its website, "constitutional carry allows any law-abiding adult who is legally eligible to obtain a carry permit, to carry a handgun without first having to obtain government permission. This ensures that citizens have their right to self-defense without government red tape or delays. It does not affect previously issued carry permits and allows citizens who still wish to obtain a permit in order to carry in other states recognizing Indiana permits, to do so."

The Hill reported on March 8 that state legislatures in both South Carolina and Nebraska are also considering their own version of constitutional carry.

TikTok Star Saved by Armed Father

In a terrifying story that shows the danger of allowing young children to use social media, ABC News reported on February 25 about a young TikTok star with more than one million followers who had an armed stalker blast into her house with a shotgun. The incident occurred shortly after 13-year-old Ava Majury started getting strange messages from a follower from another state.

Her family spoke with ABC News about the brutal incident in which the stalker came to her Florida home. Ava explained that she posted videos of her dancing or lip-syncing to music, which quickly went viral, and then started getting creepy messages from an 18-year-old man following her account. She blocked him, but then he started contacting her from different accounts. Ava's father, Robert, who is a retired law-enforcement officer, told ABC News that he regretted not taking it more seriously from the start. "I negated it and said, 'Oh, he lives in Maryland. He's young, probably doesn't have a means to act on any of these things,'" Majury told ABC News.

Then on July 10, 2021, the stalker showed up at the Majurys' home and fired a shotgun at the front door, blowing it open. In an amazing miracle, the stalker's shotgun jammed, and the father chased him off the property, but the lunatic returned. Fortunately for Ava, her father was armed this time, and the stalker was fatally wounded. Police determined that the father used justifiable deadly force under Florida's "stand your ground" law.

Robert Majury explained, "Someone came to kill me. I was in fear for my family's life, and I had to do what I had to do to protect my family, and I made sure of it." The Majury family is engaged in a lawsuit with a classmate from Ava's school, who the family alleges conspired with the armed stalker to attack Ava. One of the strangest aspects of the story is that the parents are letting their daughter keep her TikTok account because, they say, she worked really hard to get that many followers and it makes her happy to use it.

Beto O'Rourke Sinks to a New Low

The Blaze reported on March 13 that perennial political candidate Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke, who is known for putting his foot in his mouth on the campaign trail, made some absurd statements about his current opponent. Beto, who is running as the Democratic candidate for governor in Texas, rambled on about Texas Governor Greg Abbott and bizarrely tried to link him to the current campaign of demonizing anything Russian. Beto called Abbott an "authoritarian" and a "thug," obviously making a comparison between Abbott and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Beto then claimed that Abbott has his own "oligarchs" in Texas and rhetorically asked, "You think this stuff only exists in Russia or in other parts of the world?"

Those odd remarks were not the only ridiculous statements made as Beto walked back some of his rhetoric on gun control (considering that he's running in a very pro-Second Amendment state). Instead of simply taking people's "assault rifles," as he has pledged to do in the past, Beto is now proposing a massive gun-buyback program. Beto said in his public talk, "I don't think anyone should have [assault-style weapons], and if I can find consensus within the Legislature to have a law in the state of Texas that allows us to buy those AK-47s and AR-15s back, we will." Political observers don't think Beto has much of a chance of winning this November, which is good considering his hostility to gun rights. But based on his past record, it's likely Beto will eventually show up again, running for another political office and making more cringe-inducing statements. ■

— Patrick Krey