



## CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY KILLED BY LEGISLATIVE MODERATES

BY AARON DORR, CHAIRMAN

Passing Constitutional Carry should have been an easy task in the Iowa legislature during the 2019 legislative session.

After all, Iowa Gun Owners' members flipped the Iowa Senate in 2016 (after flipping the House and Governor's mansion back in 2010,) because Senate Democrats had been blockading this very bill for years.

And with a wave of other 'red states' passing Constitutional Carry over the last few years, this legislation has become mainstream in Republican controlled states.

Gun owners may remember that last session, Constitutional Carry was blocked in the Senate Judiciary Committee as the committee vote on this bill was slated for 24 hours after the Parkland, FL shooting, sending pro-gun lawmakers cowering into the corner.

Chairman Zaun and Senate leadership assured gun owners that they supported the bill, and that they would advance it during the 2019 legislative session.

*continued on 2*

## RED FLAG GUN SEIZURE LEGISLATION STOPPED - FOR NOW

BY AARON DORR, CHAIRMAN

In the waning days of the 2018 legislative session, House Republican Leader Matt Windshitt went on Iowa Press and told the state in a televised interview that he was open to passage of a 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' bill.

Worse, he said that he was already having meetings with lawmakers on the 'other side of the aisle' to try to find the votes he needed to advance this bill.

This came on the heels of Florida's Republican leaders caving into Bloomberg's demands and passing the same bill, in response to the Parkland, FL shooting. Soon over a dozen other states, many of them 'red states,' began to consider this legislation.

And given his history, when Rep. Windshitt said he was open to passing this gun control bill, we took him very seriously. After all, this is the same weak lawmaker who said he was open to banning bump-stocks, who tried to gut Stand-Your-Ground law, and who killed Constitutional Carry in 2018!

*continued on 6*

### IN THIS ISSUE

What Happened to Constitutional Carry Legislation This Year? 1

The Latest on Red Flag Gun Seizure Legislation in Iowa! 1

Like Us on Facebook! 2

E-mails 3

Gun Giveaway Winners! 4

Leaders Corner 8

"OUR LIBERTIES WE PRIZE AND OUR RIGHTS WE WILL MAINTAIN"

# CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY CONTINUED...

Starting just days after the 2018 election, Iowa Gun Owners sat down for a lengthy meeting with Judiciary Chairman Brad Zaun and went over the bill in detail.

As you know, Constitutional Carry simply lets law abiding people carry a firearm here in Iowa without being forced to first obtain a permit -- or add their name to a government database.

The bill would not eliminate the current 'Shall Issue' system, rather, it would simply make it optional.

Chairman Zaun agreed to carry the bill as the main sponsor, and, once the legislature convened in January, Iowa Gun Owners spent several weeks lobbying for cosponsors.

When the bill (Senate File 165) was finally 'read in' for the first time in late January, it had a solid 15 cosponsors and was assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

Much of this was due to the fact that the legislature received almost 30,000 emails from the members of Iowa Gun Owners, urging their co-sponsorship of the bill, as passing Constitutional Carry legislation is the hottest gun rights issue in the state!

In the House, however, things were not going as well.

The bill was sponsored by Representative Jeff Shipley (House File 118) but fellow House lawmakers Steve Holt (R-18) and Matt Windshitl (R-17) used their position as caucus leaders to scare their colleagues away from cosponsoring the bill. Hearing this, IGO staff met with both Representatives' Holt and Windshitl to insist they stop attacking the bill. Instead they ramped up their attacks and began to urge members of the Senate to withdraw their support for the bill, too.

As House leaders worked behind the scenes against Constitutional Carry, we began to have public attacks against the bill from Republicans in the Senate.

Freshman Republican Senator Chris Cournoyer, a firearms instructor who could be financially impacted if Iowans weren't required to obtain a permit to carry, came out against Constitutional Carry at a forum in mid-February. Other Republican Senators, like Dan Dawson (who won his seat in Council Bluffs after Iowa Gun Owners spent over \$40,000 attacking former Senator Mike Gronstal with mail, radio and TV ads, and Facebook and internet ads) broke his campaign promise and refused to cosponsor the bill.

Nevertheless, Iowa Gun Owners staff and several dozen members from across the state testified before a Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee hearing on the bill in mid-February.

The bill advanced through that committee by a 2-1 vote and was scheduled for a vote in the full Judiciary Committee two weeks later.

In the days leading up to the committee hearing, Iowa Gun Owners mounted a full court press, urging our members to contact the committee by email, phone calls, and Facebook messages.

Tens of thousands of calls and emails poured into the Capitol, all demanding passage of Senate File 165.

*continued on 3*



*Steve Holt, (R-18,) used his role as the Judiciary Chairman to attack Constitutional Carry for much of the 2019 legislative session.*

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Many times at the Capitol things happen on a moments notice and we need to alert you immediately to call your legislator. While we'll email you as fast as possible, we are able to alert you via Facebook right away.

So please take a moment to "Like Us" on Facebook by going to [www.facebook.com/likeiowagunowners.com](http://www.facebook.com/likeiowagunowners.com) today and click on the "like us" button in the upper right corner.

# CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY CONTINUED...

But on the day of the committee hearing, in a stunning act of betrayal, the committee KILLED Constitutional Carry law for the second year in a row, and had the gall to tell us that they were angry they had heard from so many gun owners in their districts on this issue.

You see, House and Senate leaders in Des Moines all love to talk about how much they love the Second Amendment during their reelection season, but once they are safely back in office, they want gun owners to sit down and shut up!



*Senator Jason Schultz (R-9) has long claimed to be a supporter of Constitutional Carry, but when forced to choose between his fighting for gun owners or protecting his weak caucus, Schultz stabbed gun owners in the back two years in a row by killing this legislation!*

That was the clear message from Senator Jason Schultz, for example, who was livid with Iowa Gun Owners for urging gun owners to contact legislators like Senator Cournoyer and Representative Holt, who were attacking the bill all session!

Senator Schultz, who begged our organization to help him when he left the House to run for the Senate several years ago (when he was expecting a primary) attacked us online and in the Capitol.

Schultz effectively said that if Iowans want to pass Constitutional Carry, we are going to have to beg him for it.

Keep in mind that as 'pro-gun Republicans' in both the House and the Senate were working overtime to kill Constitutional Carry law, Republican lawmakers in other states were fighting with everything they had to advance this bill.

In fact, neighboring South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem signed Constitutional Carry into law within weeks of the 2019 session kicking off in Pierre -- the very first piece of legislation that she signed into law as a new Governor.

The same thing happened in Oklahoma in late February. Last year, Republican Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin sided with Bloomberg radicals and vetoed Constitutional Carry law. This year, newly elected Governor Kevin Stitt made it a point to make Constitutional Carry legislation the very first bill that he signed into law!

And in Kentucky, Matt Bevin signed the identical bill into law in the first half of March!

These three states bring the total number of Constitutional Carry states up to a whopping fifteen -- close to one-third of the country -- as Republican leaders fight hard for gun owners while they have the legislative majorities to get it done.

But here in Iowa, despite all that gun owners have done to throw out anti-gun Democrats, Republican leaders continually betray us and attack the very people who have given them the legislative majorities that they enjoy.

What's more, given that House Republicans have lost four seats in their chamber recently giving them a slim hold on the House, there is no guarantee that they will even have the ability to pass this bill beyond 2020. That's why their refusal to fight for gun owners right now, when they have the votes to get this passed, is inexcusable.

Naturally, House and Senate leaders are telling gun owners that the solution to passing Constitutional Carry is to 'help us elect more Republicans.'



But this is a cheap cop out, and we all know it.

*continued on 6*

## Not Getting Our E-mails?

If you are not receiving our low-volume e-mail alerts then you are missing out. Using these alerts, IGO is able to keep you up-to-date on important legislative fights that sometimes require your immediate attention!

If you are not receiving these, please to go our website:

 [www.iowaGunOwners.org](http://www.iowaGunOwners.org)   
and sign up on the homepage.

If you wonder why you have not been receiving our e-mails, please check your spam blocker or sign up again on our website.

# GUN GIVEAWAY WINNERS!

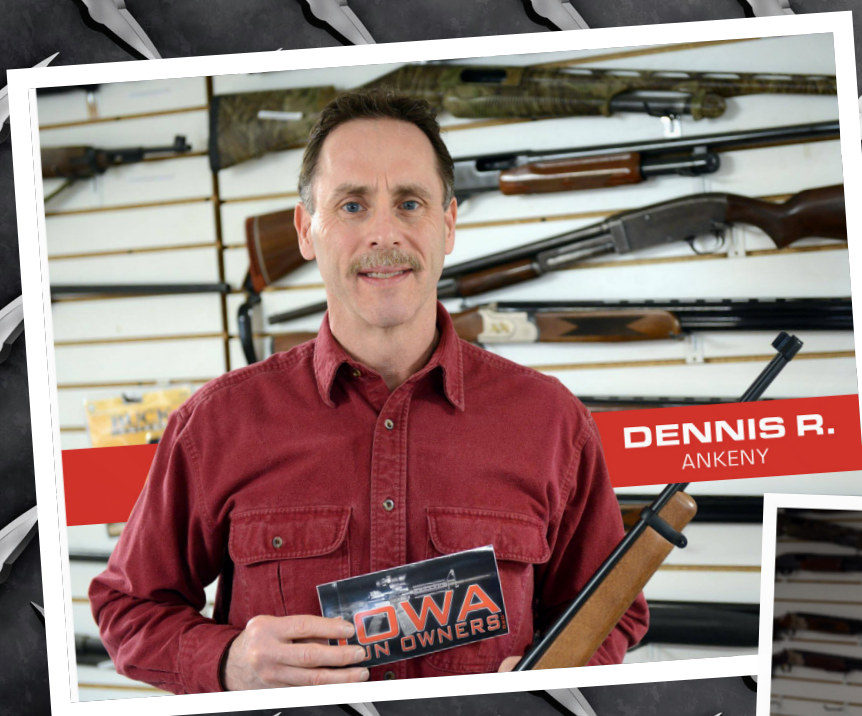
**ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING BENEFITS OF BEING INVOLVED WITH IOWA GUN OWNERS IS THE CHANCE TO WIN A FREE FIREARM!**

**WITH EACH NEW GIVEAWAY, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS ARE NOTIFIED THROUGH EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA AND GIVEN A CHANCE TO REGISTER TO WIN - TOTALLY FREE.**

**WE'VE GIVEN AWAY ALMOST A DOZEN FIREARMS RECENTLY; SOME OF THE WINNERS ARE PICTURED HERE.**

**MAYBE YOU'LL BE NEXT!**

**IT'S ONE MORE REASON TO BE INVOLVED IN IGO'S FIGHT TO DEFEND THE SECOND AMENDMENT IN IOWA!**





**GARY L.**  
IOWA CITY



**SCOTT K.**  
STRAWBERRY POINT



**SCOTT G.**  
LAKE CITY



**TIM G.**  
MARENGO

# CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY CONTINUED...

Gun owners gave the House a 60-40 Republican majority in 2010 – 2011, only to have the House vote Constitutional Carry down in April of 2011.

In fact, House Republican leaders have had a solid majority for ten years now in Des Moines and, far from passing the bill, have done all they can to stand in its way.

The Senate chamber is much the same. While there are pro-gun votes in the Republican caucus to be sure, there is a growing number of anti-gunners who are masquerading in that caucus.

Republican leaders in both chambers know this. That's why they don't want to hold a floor vote on this bill, as it would expose who is willing to fight for gun owners, and which lawmakers are simply using the gun rights issue as re-election fodder.

Rest assured, the fight for Constitutional Carry is far from over. And where lawmakers in Des Moines are demanding that we kneel and beg, Iowa Gun Owners is going to hit harder than ever next session until the legislature makes Iowa the next Constitutional Carry state!



*IGO's Aaron Dorr, testifying before a Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee in support of Constitutional Carry legislation, on behalf of thousands of members of Iowa Gun Owners.*

---

## RED FLAGS CONTINUED...

But all of that would pale in comparison to the damage that a 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' bill would do here in Iowa. Consider the following:

>>> These gun seizure orders will be issued before you have been convicted, or even charged, with anything!

A gun owner with absolutely no criminal background of any kind can have his firearms seized before he ever sets foot in a courtroom. You would have more due process rights in traffic court than you would in defending your constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

The hearings that determine whether or not to strip you of your firearms happen in secret!

Known as ex-parte proceedings, these hearings take place in your absence. You will have no ability to question your accuser, provide your own evidence, or testify in your own defense. In fact, the first time you will be made aware of this is when law enforcement officers come to your home to seize your firearms.

>>> The mere fact that you recently purchased a firearm or any ammunition constitutes evidence that can be used against you!

Under the list of 'evidence' that the court can consider in deciding to disarm you is the 'recent acquisition of a firearm, ammunition, or other weapons.' So just buying a firearm or a box of .22's could be enough for a judge to order you stripped of your firearms.

Every gun owner in the state knows someone who has gone through a bad divorce; maybe you've gone through that misery yourself.

*continued on 7*

Can you imagine what an embittered ex-spouse could do to you if Iowa enacts this legislation? How about a neighbor who doesn't like your pro-gun bumper sticker? The risk to gun owners is ENDLESS!

And as bad as this concept is, it can get much worse.

You see, once this bill is enacted, radical gun-grabbers will move to expand the scope of this bill immediately! For example, New York just expanded their 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' bill so that teachers, doctors, and nurses can now petition for one of these gun seizure orders.

In California, just last month, lawmakers opened up their 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' laws so far that even a jealous co-worker can ruin your life by filing one of these seizure orders against you!

Given the severity of this legislation, and the clear fact that House Republican leaders were willing to go along with this, Iowa Gun Owners spent most of last fall warning Iowans about the dangers of this bill – and making sure everyone knew that Rep. Windshitl was open to it.

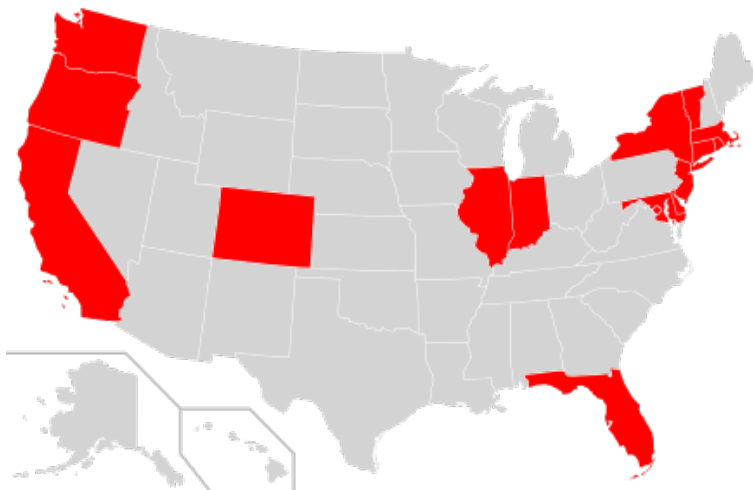
This session, when 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' legislation was introduced, Rep. Windshitl was so desperate to divert the heat from grassroots gun owners, he made sure that the bill did not advance, even going so far as to put himself on the sub-committee where he tried to claim credit for killing the very bill that he had been previously supporting!

Thank you for FLOODING the Iowa Capitol with your calls and emails opposing this legislation, as it clearly paid off.

But while Iowa Gun Owners stopped this bill during the 2019 session, this fight is far from over.



*Rep. Matt Windshitl, the House Speaker Pro-tem who has said that he's open to some sort of 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' law here in Iowa.*



*Weak-kneed Iowa lawmakers are signaling their willingness to back 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' legislation -- and would make Iowa's gun laws rival radical anti-gun states like New York, Oregon, Illinois, and Maryland. Gun owners need to fight back!*

You see, across the country, more and more Republican lawmakers are taking the position that as long as they remove the ex-parte hearing provision from this legislation, that somehow that ensures your due process rights.

But don't forget, while the ex-parte provisions of this bill are dangerous, the ultimate issue with a 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' law is that your firearms will be confiscated BEFORE YOU'VE BEEN CONVICTED IN COURT OF ANYTHING!

Dismissing the threat of this legislation advancing next session because Republicans control the legislature would be a major mistake.

Afterall, this is the same legislature that killed every single gun bill that was brought up this session. Constitutional Carry, parking lot carry, school grounds carry – House and Senate leaders killed every single one of these bills.

And with next session being an election year, we are already hearing rumbling from insiders that lawmakers want to be seen as 'doing something' in response to recent school shootings, naively thinking that passing a 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' legislation will get the media and Bloomberg-backed groups off of their backs before the 2020 elections.

Rest assured, as long as we have the support of gun owners like you, Iowa Gun Owners will fight against 'Red Flag Gun Seizure' legislation with everything we have.



# LEADERS CORNER: A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



*Retired Sioux Co. Sheriff Jim Schwiesow served as the Chairman of the Board for Iowa Gun Owners from January 2009 until his death in December of 2018.*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Board Chairman and founder, Jimmy (Jim) Schwiesow, who died December 19, 2018.

At the age of 17, Jim enlisted in the United States army and would eventually spend several years as a Military Policeman in post-WW2 Berlin, where he would meet his wife, Ingrid. When Jim and Ingrid came back to the United States, they settled in Jim's hometown of Hawarden, Iowa.

Jim soon began a

long and illustrious career as a peace officer, a career that spanned forty-three years. Jim was a municipal police officer in Hawarden for fifteen years, rising to the rank of Sergeant. In 1976, Jim was elected as sheriff in Sioux County, a position he held for twenty eight years!

Jim was also appointed to two, four-year terms on the Iowa Board of Corrections by then- Governor Terry Branstad and was a member of the Iowa Sheriff's and Deputies Association (ISSDA,) being selected as the sheriff of the year in 1979.

A passionate defender of the Second Amendment as sheriff, Jim happily agreed to serve as the first Chairman of the Board for Iowa Gun Owners, a position that he held from January of 2009 until his passing last December.

During Jim's tenure as Chairman, Iowa Gun Owners reshaped the Iowa political landscape by exposing anti-gun lawmakers using some of the most aggressive tactics and hardest hitting ads that Iowa had ever seen. This led to the flip of the House and Governor's mansion in 2010 and finally the Senate in 2016.

These changes are what paved the way for every advancement of Second Amendment freedom that Iowa has seen over the last decade, including passage of 'Shall Issue' legislation, Stand-Your-Ground law, and much more.

Jim had a deep love for the Constitution and understood that the Second Amendment wasn't written to secure our right to go pheasant hunting, but was, instead, written by our founding fathers to make sure that we the people always have the ability to hold our own government in check.

It was his love of the Second Amendment that motivated Jim to come to the Capitol in the 70's and 80's where he advocated for expansion of Iowa's gun laws as part of the ISSDA. In that context, Jim was utterly disgusted by the hostile takeover of the ISSDA that occurred as he neared retirement.

Seeing the ISSDA and his former colleagues fight against the Second Amendment rights of law abiding Iowans was very frustrating for him.

Jim was a passionate believer in Constitutional Carry legislation. He never believed that it was the government's job to put restrictions on law abiding citizens where their gun rights were concerned.

Watching over a dozen states enact this legislation over the last ten years made Jim excited about the future of the Second Amendment, hopeful that our generation would continue this fight.

In the wake of Jim's passing, we've had to make some changes to the Board of Directors to continue our essential function of fighting for the Second Amendment in Iowa.

When we considered what we needed in a new board Chairman: someone with guts, with a working knowledge of the Iowa political scene, and someone that the members of the organization were familiar with, the board decided that it made sense to move Aaron Dorr into position as our next Chairman of the Board.

As our Executive Director, Aaron has worked tirelessly for over a decade to carry out the day-to-day functions of the organization. This has included all facets of the legislative process, running our election programs, fundraising, running our social media platforms, handling hundreds of your calls and emails per month, and much more.

Given that background, we believe that Iowa Gun Owners will be well served by Aaron as the new Chairman.

Jim Schwiesow's commitment to fighting for Second Amendment freedoms was rooted in the idea that, as a free people, we have a debt to our forefathers for the freedoms that we enjoy. He also knew that our children and grandchildren are counting on us to do our part to preserve these liberties for them.

That is our mission here at Iowa Gun Owners. We hope that you will continue to stand with us!



*Certificates of election, for each of Jim's seven terms as Sioux County Sheriff.*

