

Richard Smith  
Beals  
LD 1049

Judiciary Committee Members,

Having carried a concealed firearm for several years, it has become as comfortable for me as carrying my wallet, checkbook, or cellphone. I don't think to mention it to others, as it is only there for my use and my security, and shouldn't matter to anyone else.

As a result of this comfort, my concealed handgun is the farthest thing from my mind when interacting with law enforcement, such as during a recent traffic stop for speeding. I have my concealed carry permit, so I don't currently have the duty to inform anyway, but I never even considered it until my wife mentioned it and I informed her my permit does away with that necessity.

Here in Maine, with constitutional carry, those without a concealed carry permit can become as comfortable carrying their firearm as those without the permit. It becomes as commonplace as the wallet and keys.

Furthermore, duty to inform does ZERO to enhance the safety of law enforcement. If the individual carrying the firearm intends to harm law enforcement, they're not going to inform the officer of the firearm until they're firing upon said officer.

Duty to inform is a rule meant to trip up innocent people, who may not spend every moment thinking about their concealed firearm. It is, as it was intended to be, simply another box to check on the anti-gunners' wish list of onerous and useless regulations.

Duty to inform should be ended, LD 1049 ought to pass!