



# **POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN**

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**Washington, D.C. --** Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) has announced legislation to improve current law to permit qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act Improvements Act of 2009, H.R. 3752, aims to increase public safety and ensure proper protection for law enforcement officers.

"About five percent of law enforcement officers who die each year are killed while taking action in an off-duty capacity. Convicted criminals often have exact memories, preventing law enforcement officers from ever being 'off duty', whether active duty or retired," said Forbes in a prepared statement.

"Not only is the ability of retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms a critical officer safety issue, but it just makes sense that trained officers should be prepared to respond immediately to public safety threats, regardless of whether they are off-duty or across state lines. This bill would make significant improvements to law enforcement firearm laws to increase safety for officers and the public."

Under current law, Forbes reports, retired law enforcement officers are subject to complicated and duplicative document certification procedures to carry concealed weapons. Differing interpretations of the law lead some states to refuse to issue the required documentation.

H.R. 3752 aims to "establish measures of uniformity and cut through the bureaucratic red tape by enabling a firearms instructor to certify that retired law enforcement officers meet the active duty standard for firearms training," Forbes reports.

This would allow law enforcement officers who are retired or who separated in good standing after at least ten years of service to carry a concealed weapon. The bill would also extend the right to carry a concealed weapon to current and retired law enforcement officers for a branch of the United States Armed Forces.