

# Momentum Grows for Idaho Constitutional Carry Bill

## Rep. Ronald Nate & Heather Scott

**Boise, Idaho - January 5, 2016** – A proposed bill to protect Idahoans’ rights to keep and bear arms without infringement is gaining momentum heading into the 2016 Legislative Session next week. Representatives Heather Scott (R-1A) and Ronald Nate (R-34A) will present their “Constitutional Carry” Bill in the first weeks of the session. Passing the bill would make Idaho the ninth state to fully honor the Second Amendment and virtually end permit requirements for law abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms. Representatives Scott and Nate worked through the summer and fall with legislators, law enforcement, gun-owners, and other groups to produce a well-written and sound Constitutional Carry Bill.

Critical to the bill’s success, the Idaho Sheriffs’ Association confirmed they are comfortable with the language and are confident that the bill, while protecting Second Amendment rights, will not inadvertently allow guns into the hands of convicted felons or other dangerous persons (letter dated 12/14/15).

As support for Constitutional Carry in Idaho builds, here’s what some are saying:

The Post Register (Idaho Falls, 12/14/15) interviewed Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke, and reported, *“Bedke said gun legislation is likely. A bill that would have allowed any legal gun owner to carry concealed without a special permit — referred to as ‘constitutional carry’ — was introduced last year but failed to gain momentum. Bedke said he thinks similar legislation could pass this year.”*

*Speaker Bedke also said, “There’s a strong majority of Idahoans and legislators who believe that citizens have a right to protect themselves. In the wake of these mass shootings, I think that gets elevated.”*

*Madison County Sheriff, Roy C. Klingler – “The Second Amendment affords law abiding citizens the right to protect themselves and their families. Constitutional Carry is common sense legislation that will help do away with unnecessary regulation that hinders the Second Amendment’s true meaning.”*

*Bonner County Sheriff, Daryl Wheeler – “The Constitutional Carry Bill would align Idaho Law with the true meaning of the Second Amendment. This Bill will not change Law Enforcement Tactics. Also, it is well known that most persons who commit criminal acts do not follow the permitting rules anyway.”*

Representatives Scott and Nate encourage all Idahoans to contact their legislators and remind them that Idaho citizens value freedom, natural rights, and our Constitution—which was

established to protect those rights. The Constitutional Carry Bill is an opportunity for Idaho's legislature to demonstrate its respect for individual freedom and for the Second Amendment.