

LETTER: State's gun laws highlight inequality

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

New York's Concealed Carry Improvement Act (CCIA) has made some more "equal" than others.

Until July of 2022, pistol permit holders were allowed to carry conceal in New York State as long as they had a valid New York State pistol permit.

The 2022 act changed all of that — basically turning the state into a giant "Sensitive Zone." As usual, these laws are never thought out in advance as to their outcome and how they'll effect everyday citizens.

Judges, district attorneys and assistant DA's in rural areas were hesitant to appear in town and village court proceedings, since quite often there wasn't any presence of law enforcement when a defendant was brought in or dropped off for an arraignment as they weren't allowed to carry conceal even if they had a pistol permit as "All Government Buildings" is one of the categories within the Sensitive Zone that was created when the CCIA took effect.

Now you see, that doesn't sit well with the elites in New York State when it comes to who can have a conceal carry permit and where they can carry concealed.

This reminds me of the famous George Orwell "Animal Farm" quote on equality: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

All New York State citizens are equal, but when it comes to the ability to carry concealed, judges and district attorneys, some citizens lives are more valuable than others.

All this is doing is creating a separate class of citizens and a division among citizens, which is wrong. When the Founding Fathers wrote the Second Amendment it didn't discriminate by employment, wealth or social status, it applied equally to all citizens of America.

Here come our state legislators with bills as they were asked to remedy the situation. In October, state Sen. Joseph Griffo, R-53, sponsored state senate bill S7712 which would allow judges, justices and criminal prosecutors that are licensed to possess a concealed firearm in court where no magnetometer or security personnel are present.

Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon, D-119, sponsored a similar bill in the Assembly.

Why is it law abiding gun owners of New York State have to live by the rules of the new CCIA but as soon as the safety and well being of certain citizens is threatened, they come up with exceptions to the rule? Are their lives any more valuable than ours or are they just selective in whose life is more valuable? Maybe the legislature should be proactive and think these things through before passing these bills into law. The New York State legislature passed the CCIA of 2022 into law, and we all should live by it or abolish it completely as it's unconstitutional to begin with.

— *Bohdan Rabarsky, Utica*