



The Honorable Mike Lee

THE KNIFE OWNERS' PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

The Knife Owners' Protection Act (KOPA) is commonsense legislation that will protect knife owners from unjust arrest and prosecution while traveling interstate.

- Knife owners face a similar situation to that of firearms owners in 1986 when Congress acted to protect law-abiding gun owners from a similar inconsistent patchwork of laws by passing the Firearms Owners' Protection Act (FOPA), 18 USC §926A, which protects owners traveling with firearms if possession is lawful at both the origination and destination points of travel.
- **KOPA would simply provide a safe harbor to someone traveling with knives when it is lawful to possess the knives at both the point of origin and destination, and so long as the knives are transported in accordance with specific requirements that make them inaccessible during travel.**
- This is necessary, because the current legal patchwork across the United States makes it virtually impossible for any citizen to be fully cognizant of the knife laws in every jurisdiction that they travel through.
- 45 States allow civilian possession of automatically opening knives (switchblades) to varying degrees. 29 States have no restrictions on carry. Other States treat possession or carry of automatically opening knives and many other commonly-used knives as a serious crime and even a felony.
- While many States have permissive or relatively permissive knife laws, only 13 States have a Knife Preemption Law that preempts local regulations that are more restrictive than State law.
- This means those who travel across the country with knives for work and recreation are presently subject to arrest and prosecution under a confusing patchwork of inconsistent State and local laws and regulations. What is perfectly legal in one place may be a felony just across the jurisdiction's border. Enforcement is not uniform even within jurisdictions and is subject to the vagaries of political expediency at times.
- For example, in New York City, over 70,000 people were prosecuted in 12 years on bogus illegal knife possession charges before the law was changed in 2019. Unfortunately, the persecution of honest, law-abiding citizens for carrying common knives is not just a localized occurrence in New York City, it is part of a growing trend around the country in States like Colorado, Michigan and New Jersey.

Congressman Andy Biggs is carrying the House version, H.R. 60. Please contact Coy Westbrook at Coy.Westbrook@judiciary-rep.senate.gov with any questions or if your boss is interested in cosponsoring.