

Interim Committee on School Safety  
Public Comments 7/11/2019

Name	City	Organization	Comment
Munroe, Mimi	Aurora	0	It seems to me that school safety needs to be addressed side-by-side with mental health issues. I'd like to call your attention to an organization called Mental Health First Aid: <a href="https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/news-and-updates/">https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/news-and-updates/</a> (blog site). Lady Gaga has recently gotten involved in Mental Health First Aid for Teens. I'm wondering if training all HS students in this would help young people to: 1) reach out when they need help, 2) recognize their peers in trouble and help them find assistance, 3) raise awareness and de-stigmatize mental health issues. Worth a shot, no? Thank you!
Gault-Drakos, Lindsay	Centennial	0	I believe that we must address funding for mental health in schools and have a decent therapist:student ratio. This is a non-negotiable in my mind. The Mental Health First Aid program should be mandatory PD for all educators and offered to parents as well. We are missing a sense of community in our world - how can we wrap kids in the safety of community? We have to find a way. All of this, and also tighter gun control laws - longer waiting periods, require safe and impenetrable storage of guns, maybe require insurance for all gun owners, high taxes on ammunition.
Jackson, Regina	Denver	George Washington Patriot Pairs Mentoring	Our children should be able to enjoy school without overly restrictive security and police presence
Smith, Daniel	Highlands Ranch	0	<p>This is a multi-dimensional problem. It's not a gun control problem that will be fixed just by tighter gun control laws. It's not a mental health problem that will be fixed just by better mental health resources. It's not a bullying problem that will be fixed just by working to discourage bullying. It's not a school safety problem that will be fixed just by better school security precautions.</p> <p>But any approach that doesn't embrace solutions on all those fronts is less likely to succeed, and is more likely to leave parents and students feeling insecure.</p> <p>If I had to choose one other thing to say here, I'd encourage you to spend more money on preventative services than anything else. Hardening our schools might make schools safer, but it won't do a thing to protect basketball courts, or soccer fields, or public parks, or churches, or any of a dozen other types of public spaces. I leave it to the mental health professionals to help us determine where we get the best return on investment for mental health dollars, but this should be about creating a general culture of mental wellness in our schools rather than just providing crisis response solutions to kids who are already identified as being at risk.</p>
Erhardt, John	Denver	0	<p>One thing that is often overlooked is the lack of a school's response to bullying. This has long been a problem, and I personally identify with it. If you have a chance, look at the documentary <a href="https://denverlibrary.kanopy.com/video/reject">https://denverlibrary.kanopy.com/video/reject</a>. One of the most profound statements in the film is something along the lines that much of bullying in school if it happened in the work place would be legally actionable. Often by the time a student does speak up it is far too late and much of the damage has already been done. And unfortunately some of those children snap and resort to violence. Educators must act when they see bullying and our schools need enough psychologists who can help those identified.</p> <p>I recently started looking into middle schools for our son and reviewed comments related to one highly rated school we were considering. A number of the comments say teachers ignore obvious bullying at that school. That school is off our short-list.</p> <p>More police and/or guns in our schools won't help and can lead to other problems like the guns being stolen and police overreacting to more mundane situations like handcuffing 5 year olds. We also have plenty of evidence that police in schools create more problems: the officer at Parkland who failed to act, and the security guard at STEM who shot a student.</p>

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Edwards, Hannah	LAFAYETTE	0	As a Colorado resident, parent of a two-year-old, neighbor to an elementary school, and concerned citizen - thank you for creating the Colorado School Safety Committee. I encourage the state legislature to include violence-prevention education for students in its efforts to increase school safety. Sandy Hook Promise is a national non-partisan, violence-prevention organization formed by individuals who lost a loved one in the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting. I've been a supporter and have followed this organization for the past few years. While it breaks my heart to read each and every email, I have chosen not to look away from their pain, and to support their valiant efforts to equip students and faculty, change the discourse, and make a difference in our communities to keep our schools safe. Please consider the resources they provide as best-in-class material on violence prevention.
Laurson, Edward	Denver	0	Continue to keep guns out of schools and educate people in the purpose of Gun Free Zones
Jaycox, Gary	Boulder	0	<p>While I am not a member of Sandy Hook Promise I do support their agenda as it relates to school violence prevention. I do have a child in 8th Grade at Centennial Middle School in Boulder. While I appreciate the hard work that the staff and teachers do every day, I do believe that additional education, training, tools, and techniques can be helpful in making our children safer.</p> <p>I encourage the state legislature to include violence-prevention education for students in its efforts to increase school safety.</p> <p>Violence-prevention education for students gives them the skills to be proactive when it comes to their safety. Research shows eighty percent of school shooters told someone of their violent plans prior to the event.</p> <p>Students see and hear many things, making them an important part of school safety efforts. The state legislature should ensure schools have access to tools – like Sandy Hook Promise’s violence prevention programs – to help harness student insight.</p>
De Abreu-Sisman, Eliani	Denver	0	I believe that this law needs to pass to help bring much needed awareness and education in our schools and community. We are in dire need to help insure the safety of all students and staff.
Bell, Dana	Denver	0	As a Denver public school teacher I am SHOCKED at the lack of mental health support for students and the lack of restorative practices for kids. ALL schools need support, not just Title 1 schools. We’ve (non title 1) have had students try to hang themselves IN 4TH GRADE on the playground with no one on staff to support.
Spray, Ale	Erie	0	<p>as a parent of a 14 and 11 year old girl and boy I am fortunate to be within the St Vrain School District as they emphasize in the physical and mental well being of students.</p> <p>There are two doors to enter the schools, cameras, resource officers and other resources which I am aware and not available for every school.</p> <p>The most important thing is for my kids not to feel scare of their school, for them to know there are support available and they can talk to anyone about it. To educated them to be vigilant of strange behaviors, to report even the slightest comment that can be used as a threat. Not hiding what is happening in the world around them.</p> <p>Keep the conversation going and allow kids to have a forum for public official to hear about their concerns, their fears, what is needed in their school. They are learning about the power of their voices.</p>
Merida, Andrea	Denver	Green Party of Colorado	The biggest violent threat to urban students is the presence of armed law enforcement in schools. Please pass legislation to prohibit them, and please earmark and appropriate a fund for restorative justice and more mental health professionals, so that more young people with serious issues can be properly supported and not incarcerated. It's time to nip the problem in the bud by providing positive health supports early on.

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Rediker, Kim	Vail	0	<p>Hello. I am the parent of a teenager at Battle Mountain High School in Edwards. Two years ago there was a credible threat at their school, and a majority of the student body was terrified to go to school. This year there was a bank robbery near the school, and my son came home terrified that his school was at risk of a shooting catastrophe. Children in America are scared to go to school, and I don't think the solution will be found with the idea of combating violence with return violence (armed guards or teachers). I am a strong supporter of Sandy Hook Promise, a national non-partisan, violence-prevention organization formed by individuals who lost a loved one in the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary. I have a relative who lives in Sandy Hook and works at the library there, and she has seen the devastation that the children and adults in that community have been living with every day since. I strongly encourage you to include violence-prevention education for students in your efforts to increase school safety. Sandy Hook Promise offers this sort of education to schools at no cost. Students see and hear so much, making them an important part of your efforts - please ensure that schools have access to tools like Sandy Hook Promise's violence prevention programs to help harness student insight. Thank you for considering my comments, and for the work you do every day to make Colorado a safe &amp; comfortable home for us all.</p>
Peterson, Kaitlin	Denver	0	<p>I work at a public library that is right across from an elementary school, right down the street from another, and less than a mile from two middle schools and a high school. My library is therefore extremely popular after school and throughout the summer for kids. The children I work with tend to be latinx, Vietnamese, or black, and many come from poor socioeconomic backgrounds. I feel like these backgrounds play into how a predominately white administration and staff treats the kids at school. I hear a lot of stories from the children of extreme discipline for behavior that is in my mind just being a child. The school will reprimand a child for being unable to sit still in class, but did nothing to prevent one of my regular kids who is bisexual from being bullied out of school. When we have conducted surveys with the children on our afterschool program 100% of them stated they felt safer at the library than at school, and many stated they felt more respected and understood at the library (this was not a question we explicitly asked, they shared this information on their own). In an entirely different vein, Colorado needs to dramatically alter its gun laws so we don't have another season of lockouts and shutdowns like we did in the previous school year. Thank you for reading my comment. I look forward to seeing the work of this committee.</p>
Riecke, John	Denver	0	<p>My only comment is this: do not turn our schools into fortified prisons. I know it's the politically easy answer but it is not a healthy way to educate the next generation. An entire generation of kids is already in a siege mentality and this would only reinforce that feeling.</p>

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Kelly, Anna	Brighton	0	<p>Legislation is most effective if laws hold gun owners to be criminally liable when one of their guns is used to injure or kill someone else. A study looking at mortality from firearms in children under 15 from 1979 to 1994, compared states with strong child-access prevention (CAP) laws to those without CAP laws (Cummings, 1997). Unintentional deaths were 23% less in states with strong CAP laws, though suicide and homicide rates were minimally impacted. In a follow-up study (Cummings, 2000), Florida stood out with a 51% decline in unintentional shootings. The authors theorized that this is because Florida allowed felony prosecution of violators. A later study (Hepburn, 2006) confirmed those findings, with statistically significant improvements in California and Florida where CAP laws were enforced with the threat of a felony conviction.</p> <p>On the other hand, Webster, et.al, looked the impact of laws that mandate a minimum age for purchase or possession of guns on suicide rates in 14 to 20 year-olds, did not show a reduction in suicides when comparing states with such laws to states without. In contrast, child access prevention laws did reduce suicide rates. Thus, it appears that for laws to be effective, age limits may not be helpful. Rather they must target the gun-owners with felony level repercussions for not keeping guns safely stored.</p> <p>Another level of intervention is technology. As summarized by President Obama in his speech on gun violence Jan, 2016, "If we can set it up so you can't unlock your phone unless you've got the right fingerprint, why can't we do the same thing for our guns? If there's an app that can help us find a missing tablet ... there's no reason we can't do it with a stolen gun. If a child can't open a bottle of aspirin, we should make sure that they can't pull a trigger on a gun."</p> <p>Thus, the most effective intervention requires a 2-pronged approach: Make a user-recognition locking mechanism an integral part of all firearms. Manufacturers of new guns should include a plainly visible user-recognition locking mechanism incorporated into the gun. This would prevent accidental discharge by a child, and would deter theft. Owners of older guns should be required to bring them in for retrofitting with a smart gunlock. Then have legislation that squarely lays responsibility for any accidental shootings on the gun-owner to make sure his guns are safely locked and stored, with failure to do so incurring a felony conviction.</p>
Findley, Kelly	Denver	0	I work at a Colorado University as a staff member
Rahn, Priscilla	0	0	<p>I'm a teacher in Denver and here are my general thoughts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Yes, we need to fund more social workers, restorative justice coordinators</li> <li>2) I would also feel save knowing there are school resource officers in our schools as well as Denver Police.</li> <li>3) I would feel safer knowing we have a place to send students who are the most disruptive and dangerous to our schools. Children in middle school and younger often don't have a place to go to get the kinds of interventions they need.</li> <li>4) Have stricter consequences for parents who are violent and combative with school personnel.</li> </ol> <p>I do not support teachers carrying weapons/guns.</p>

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Juzman-Henderson, Juli	Littleton	0	<p>I'm the parent of two teen girls - 14 and 17 - in Littleton, a few miles away from the STEM School, Arapahoe HS and Columbine HS. My children have frequent active shooter drills and lockdowns. At least twice we've been told of credible threats to their actual schools. My observations are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Anti-bullying" is the wrong focus. No one thinks THEIR kid is a bully, so all it does is point the finger at others and demonize them. The "bullies" are ostracized and sometimes expelled, which only makes them more angry and likely to explode. The focus should be on kindness, compassion, support, and mental health. We need to provide mental health support for every child and great training for all staff on how to make kids feel better, not more excluded. Teaching mindfulness and making sure kids have the opportunity to create art and music and move their bodies is huge!</li> <li>2. Guns, guns, guns. NO one should be able to get a hold of a gun who has not had training, a background check, a waiting period, and who has proven that their guns CANNOT be accessed by kids. NO one should be able to shoot a dozen people in a matter of minutes. And really, no one should have a weapon that is designed to kill people. A hunting rifle is plenty (more than plenty in my opinion).</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to share. Feel free to contact me.</p>
Hilbert-Trice, Laura	Denver	0	<p>Schools need more mental health resources, counselors, and smaller class sizes to better support students. Schools do NOT need armed staff or adults with guns.</p>
Wiig, Kenneth	Denver	Second Wind Fund	<p>The Second Wind Fund provides free counseling to students in crisis, especially those at risk of suicide, that have a barrier (financial, cultural, time delay) to getting help. Over 5,000 Colorado kids in more than 30 countries have been referred to the Fund since 2002: ages 4-19. We would like to increase awareness of our services and make certain that all kids have a chance to access help in crisis.</p>
Widoff, Edie	Greenwood Village	0	<p>Hello and thank you for your work. I am a public school teacher, former Teacher of the Year, in my 20+ year of teaching. I love teaching and am passionate about what I do and the good that we can affect through teaching. However I have recently questioned my desire to stay in the profession because of the violence in our schools. When I chose to be a teacher I NEVER thought I might have to someday be faced with the task of shielding my students from bullets and risking my own life in the process. I have 2 children of my own and I struggle with that dilemma of what would happen to my own family should I be faced with gun violence. I hate that I am thinking about leaving the teaching profession. Schools need good teacher like me. But I am torn on whether I am willing to put myself in a position that terrifies me. I never went into teaching because of the great salary or the incredible respect we get as professionals, but I did go into teaching to be able to transform the lives of my students in positive ways. If I can't be sure of their and my safety, how can I try to teach them anything. Thank you for making solutions to the gun violence in our schools a priority issue.</p>
Levy, Mary Ann	Lakewood	0	<p>Its about time we did something significant to stop the arming of our country with killing weapons designed for war. Since Columbine there has been little action by politicians and the public to stop this farcical concession to the NRA. It is time to put our children safety and health as a top priority and stop coddling the crazies of this country. The right to bear arms was designed for a militia and not what the gun dealers and salespeople make it to be. Read the constitution!</p>
Barnes, Karen	Greenwood Village	0	<p>PLEASE FOCUS ON REAL SOLUTIONS THAT WILL KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE. I am a Sandy Hook Promise supporter, and I want to see violence prevention and safety programming become a major focus of the committee.</p>
Chao, Christine	Denver	0	<p>As a clinical psychologist who has worked with crime victims and refugees I see the results of trauma. We have no more time for pious prayers, though they may be good. My grandchildren practice drills for when a school invasion and shooting happens- not by foreign terrorists, but by Americans. We know what we can do to enhance school safety and it's not by arming teachers. The children and the police in our community want to get guns off the streets. The children don't want AK-47s easily available. The police don't want them. We don't need "bump stocks" for deer hunting. We need moral backbones.</p>

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Sajbel, Sandra	Evergreen	My family--we count more than any lobby	<p>Thank you for the chance to share thoughts and for addressing school safety.</p> <p>I'm an alumna of Columbine High School. I graduated before the massacre, but my hometown still feel the wounds. When the April 20 anniversary drew a mentally ill young woman to Colorado, leading to the shutdown of 500,000 routines, I was not surprised. I was grateful for the mass cautionary measures, though, as I was going to keep my Jeffco student home even if they didn't close the schools. I did not want to go to work, either. I am a professor at Red Rocks Community College, which also shut down that day. Every day when I walk into class, I pray for safety and think, "Not today, Satan."</p> <p>All of us in education deserve better than a wish and a prayer.</p> <p>We have utterly FAILED to protect our kids and politicians have changed virtually nothing to avoid grave danger. We MUST commit to better than tragedy.</p> <p>Dropping my kids at school, instead of "Have a nice day" I'd say "Run, Hide, Fight!" I wanted my voice in their head if the unthinkable came to pass, as it has for HUNDREDS of families. Not exactly what I had in mind when I was picking out baby clothes in 1998.</p> <p>At work I worry an angry student will bring a gun. In ONE week in April, we had a lockdown drill, a lockout, an evacuation, and shutdown of ALL Front Range schools. It wears on us.</p> <p>Now roughly 1/3 of my students have anxiety. We now train every year to help students with mental health issues, spending time and emotional capital. They're not faking it. They grew up knowing they could be shot at school, church, the mall--anywhere.</p> <p>Please fund training for schools to recognize signs of impending violence. And PLEASE do NOT let guns in schools. The risk of accidental shots or a mad student grabbing the gun is so great, most of us will quit if it comes to that. It's also a myth to think a teacher would be able to shoot a student. We're trained to help students, not shoot them. Plus, we teach students civil debate. Guns dampen free speech, killing academic freedom at least.</p>
Vasquez, Heather	Castle Rock	0	<p>I am interested in expanded school safety planning. One such item is Sandy Hook Promise, a national violence-prevention organization, equips students to be upstanders when it comes to preventing violence in their schools and communities. I encourage the state legislature to include violence-prevention education for students in its efforts to increase school safety. Students see and hear many things, making them an important part of school safety efforts. The state legislature should ensure schools have access to tools – like Sandy Hook Promise's violence prevention programs – to help harness student insight. Violence prevention education that gives students tools to combat social isolation and emphasizes the importance of speaking up when someone is at risk of hurting themselves or others, promotes a safer school environment.</p>
Diaz, Angie	Greeley	0	<p>I believe we need to work more with our local police department to do active drills. Staff talk about drills and go over safety plans but do not do active drills. More training for school staff and students. Schools needs to communicate with parents when they are conducting drills so there will not be a panic. Most of the schools in my area have automatic locks but teachers have to leave their doors open because lack of AC. We need more school resource officers. We have 1 SRO for 5 schools. Each school has 500+ students. I also live the idea of cameras in the schools but we need to hire staff to monitor those cameras. Schools that have cameras usually view the tapes after a major incident. Let's be proactive.</p>
Wilder, Larisa	Boulder	0	<p>Safety is the result of mental health. Teens need weekly mental health screenings. Yes, weekly! We need to be actively and intentionally prodding our teens to truly understand that they are going through. Mental health needs to be our first priority, and education second. Yep, your read that correctly. If you want your school to be safe, you need to know the every person in that building is under sound, healthy mind.</p>

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Tuta, Margaret	Denver	0	<p>As an educator, I was very concerned that our principal did not receive notice of the active shooter threat in the Denver Metro area on April 16th until after we had already dismissed students. There was a huge breakdown in communicating this threat to school leaders. I was tutoring a student and had no idea that this was going on - all students stayed for after-school activities as normal because it was simply not communicated to our school. There needs to be a better communication system that immediately alerts all schools of a potential threat so that we can take appropriate action to protect our students.</p> <p>I am grateful to work at a school where safety is put first. All visitors ALWAYS check in at the front office and all staff wears their Denver Public Schools ID cards at all times. There are improvements that need to be made at the district and state levels but I feel that our school administration does everything they can to keep kids safe.</p>
Swain, Lauren	Denver	0	<p>I strongly believe in enhancing gun safety laws, but the most critical thing we can do to help make our schools safer is to promote and provide access to mental health services and mental health training and education to as many students, educators, administrators, and community members as possible.</p>
Schmelter, Cathy	Denver	0	<p>School shootings are all too common now. We need "common sense" measures to protect students no matter what the cost. I honestly don't ever want to hear of another tragedy like this. It's so unfair to the students of Colorado and the rest of the country. I'm not entirely sure what the answer is but know that there probably needs to be a multi-pronged approach. I think figuring out a way to keep these shooters from even entering a school with a weapon (e.g. making it tougher for them to acquire weapons) would be priority one, along with mental health counseling availability from an early age. Again, I'm no expert on this subject. I just feel that enough is enough!!</p>
Adcock, Kristin	Lakewood	0	<p>Please focus on prevention with proposed mental health services and identification programs. As a retired educator, I met several students who confided their fantasies of becoming school shooters before and after Columbine. I think this is more common than is generally acknowledged. Providing mental health services was crucial in these cases. Teachers carrying guns is unrealistic and might result in further shootings if the guns were stolen. My purse was stolen several times during my career despite my efforts to lock it up. What would have happened if I had carried a gun? A confidential research study of the incidence of school shooter fantasies should be undertaken. Also more services for students in crisis are imperative.</p>
Vaughter, Ellie	Denver	0	No Comment

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White, Kerry	Boulder	0	<p>Hello. I am a parent of a son who attends school in Boulder Valley School District. This fall we will be transitioning from elementary to middle school. But unfortunately, I know at all schools in Colorado and across all grade levels my son and our state's children are not safe due to inadequate gun control laws. In addition to common sense gun safety in our state, I support the following to prevent school shootings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I encourage the state legislature to include violence-prevention education for students in its efforts to increase school safety. Violence-prevention education for students gives them the skills to be proactive when it comes to their safety.</li><li>• Research shows eighty percent of school shooters told someone of their violent plans prior to the event. Students see and hear many things, making them an important part of school safety efforts. The state legislature should ensure schools have access to tools – like Sandy Hook Promise’s violence prevention programs – to help harness student insight.</li><li>• Students should feel safe in school and violence prevention education – like that offered by Sandy Hook Promise to schools at no-cost - is an important step toward making that happen.</li><li>• Students sometimes need to be reminded why it is important to tell a trusted adult what they know when they see or hear something – including on social media – suggesting a person is at risk of harming themselves or others.</li><li>• Violence prevention education that gives students tools to combat social isolation and emphasizes the importance of speaking up when someone is at risk of hurting themselves or others, promotes a safer school environment.</li></ul> <p>Please do your part in keeping students safe in Colorado schools.Sincerely, Kerry White Boulder, CO 80305</p>
Johnson, Megan	Denver	0	I do not want my child subjected to active shooter drills, in elementary school especially. It's "terror porn"



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To the Committee on School Safety-

Almost every week, I notice that the United States flag on the corner fire station is at half staff, and I ask myself, "which happened this week?" Seems like most of the time, a shooting somewhere has killed more people. This happens so much that I am tempted to block out the news and reassure myself that it happened somewhere across the country, so my kids and I are safe here in Cherry Creek.

But that would be short sighted. Not only could it happen here, last year it did, with both the visit from Sol Pais and the shooting at the STEM school. In fact, it seems Colorado is an example of school shootings, beginning with Columbine.

I support Sandy Hook Promise and their mission of preventing violence in our schools. Who knows the consequences of violence in our schools better than an organization formed by a non-partisan group of individuals who lost a loved one in a school shooting? I have twins heading to high school next year, and it is heartbreaking to think of them being courageous and going to school during a threat of violence. Yes, we can't live our lives in fear and barricade ourselves in our homes, but when did showing up at school become such an act of courage?

We need to take action now to stop this situation. We must do everything we can to prevent this from happening again by educating our students in violence prevention and how to handle signs that a person may intend to harm others. We owe it to our kids to at least this much.

As your constituent and a faithful voter, I encourage the state legislature to include violence-prevention education for students in its efforts to increase school safety. Students should feel safe in school and violence prevention education – like that offered by Sandy Hook Promise to schools at no-cost - is an important step toward making that happen.

While this situation is very difficult, your efforts to address this problem are encouraging. I hope that you can begin our journey to making schools a safer place for all of our students. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Kaprielian, Kim

Englewood

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Park-Friend, Emily	Denver	0	<p>I work at a school that shares a building with another school (STRIVE Prep Lake, which shares the Lake Middle School campus with Lake Middle School). There are huge discrepancies in funding/support for security between our two schools. Lake MS has more up-to-date security technology, such as modern door cameras that allow you to see the person's face before allowing them to enter the building. My school does not have this technology and cannot visually confirm who is at the door. Additionally, the cameras are frequently broken, creating a lag time--sometimes 30 seconds to 1 minute. At one point this year, a custodian left a sink running and it leaked through to the floor below, damaging the computer that provides security footage views. There were no replacements while it was broken--my understanding is that it's still broken. The expectation from DPS Safety and Security is that we just "make do" in the meantime. This is not acceptable for the safety of everyone who attends school and works in that building. Additionally, there is no "panic button" in our main office to immediately alert DPS safety and security, which I understand should be standard. Someone could easily get buzzed in without clear identification as we can't see their face, then there is no immediate recourse in the main office to alert authorities if there is a threat to the building.</p> <p>This building has multiple doors, and frequently people try to enter through doors that are not part of the main entrance. Having the capability to get buzzed in at all of these doors and also have cameras on all of them would be helpful to ensure the safety of our building. It is a huge building and we currently only have cameras on the main entrance (and still can't see faces) and 2 hallways--this isn't enough. As this is a historic building, I think there are challenges to getting all the video technology we need due to its historic status and construction work that would be necessary to install them in hallways and stairwells. This is not a sufficient justification. I urge officials to care more about the children who attend school there than how pretty the building looks on the outside. It is a school, not a museum, and it is currently not as safe as it could be.</p>
Connell, Elaine	Denver	0	<p>Please be sure to include the Standard Response Protocol developed by the I Love U Guys Foundation in your study. <a href="https://iloveguys.org/srp.html">https://iloveguys.org/srp.html</a> Thank you for working toward improved safety in our schools!</p>
Itelman, Stephanie	Denver	0	<p>As a charter school leader and parent of two young girls in Colorado, I see that reform is urgently needed. Please focus on practical, tangible solutions to keep our children safe. I am a Sandy Hook Promise supporter.</p>
Rasmussen, Heather	Bow Mar	0	No Comment
Fickes, Natalie	Denver	0	No Comment
Mahaffey, Marcel	Denver	Moms Demand Action	No Comment
Sabourin, Sondra	Florissant	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence-prevention education for students gives them the skills to be proactive when it comes to their safety.</li> <li>• Research shows eighty percent of school shooters told someone of their violent plans prior to the event.</li> <li>• Students see and hear many things, making them an important part of school safety efforts. The state legislature should ensure schools have access to tools – like Sandy Hook Promise’s violence prevention programs – to help harness student insight.</li> <li>• Students should feel safe in school and violence prevention education – like that offered by Sandy Hook Promise to schools at no-cost - is an important step toward making that happen.</li> <li>• Students sometimes need to be reminded why it is important to tell a trusted adult what they know when they see or hear something – including on social media – suggesting a person is at risk of harming themselves or others.</li> <li>• Students should not be expected to solve other students’ problems, but they can be encouraged to tell a trusted adult what they know in order to get help for someone who may be at risk of harming themselves or others.</li> <li>• Violence prevention education that gives students tools to combat social isolation and emphasizes the importance of speaking up when someone is at risk of hurting themselves or others, promotes a safer school environment.</li> </ul>

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Goodrich, Lisa	Boulder	0	<p>This is more than a school issue, it is a community issue. More than one thing needs to be addressed. Schools need more money and support for mental health and well being. At the Federal level, bump stocks on firearms need to be reclassified as "machine guns" effectively banning them.</p> <p>It is horrible that it is more dangerous to go to school than it is to serve in the military.</p> <p><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2018/05/18/2018-has-been-deadlier-for-schoolchildren-than-service-members/?noredirect=on&amp;utm_term=.5146b3d8ab70">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/politics/wp/2018/05/18/2018-has-been-deadlier-for-schoolchildren-than-service-members/?noredirect=on&amp;utm_term=.5146b3d8ab70</a></p> <p>Please do what you can to help curb this cultural epidemic.</p>
Janssen, Mary	Lakewood	0	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am responding to your need for public comment forum. About 30 years ago I was attacked in downtown Denver. I was hit in the face and dragged to an alley. A woman in a car at a stop sign saw what happened and came to my rescue. Her husband had put a firearm in the car and she grabbed it and proceeded to frighten my attacker off. If it were not for her I probably would have been in really bad shape or even killed. When we called the police it took them 20 minutes to get there. I am a proponent for good people to have firearms. I believe that if more good people are armed that could protect themselves and others we would have less crime. The police cannot be everywhere.</p> <p>Now if some teachers want to get trained with a firearm I think it is a great idea. I know that it is sad that this is happening but we all need to protect ourselves and others. I know if I were a teacher I would get trained so that I might be able to thwart an attack on the school and protect my students and fellow teachers. Nothing else has been proposed except banning guns and that has not worked so now we all must make drastic changes in order to protect ourselves and our kids. Celebrities and Elected officials have body guards that have guns to protect them why do we not have protections to save our kids? I would be willing to give to an organization that would train teachers in defense. Another idea is to have retired people that would be on patrol that would give some added protection, ie to make sure doors are closed and locked, also checking in on kids that don't fit in to make sure they are not "planning" anything. Also this would be like a bridge to bring the generations together. The kids and the elders might learn something.</p> <p>I hope you will use common sense from all sides to help solve this devastating problem that we have in our country.</p>

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Winter, Abbey	Denver	Moms Demand Action	<p>Good afternoon, my name is Abbey Winter and I am a volunteer with the Colorado chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. As your committee prepares to look at strategies to support school safety, I would like to encourage the committee to look at policy solutions that are based on evidence and have the highest likelihood hood of keeping ALL of our children safe. As a teacher, I have experienced school lockouts and lockdown drills and I see first-hand the traumatizing effects on our children.</p> <p>Ensuring that our students have a safe environment to learn and thrive requires a multi-faceted approach but must include the following: a threat assessment program with "multi-disciplinary teams that are specifically trained to intervene at the earliest warning signs..." . According to a 2002 FBI study the most valuable prevention strategy is a threat assessment and management team (Everytown's Keeping Our Schools Safe, pg. 21 everytown.org). Additional prevention strategies should include determining if a student has access to a gun (close to 80% of the firearms used in school shootings that could be identified were obtained from the home or the home of a relative). Safe storage laws would also go a long way in preventing and reducing not only the risk of school violence but teen suicide as well, which is on the rise in Colorado.</p> <p>These are just a few of the evidenced-based strategies and policies that the committee can explore to ensure that children in all communities in CO are safe and secure in their learning environment. Any policy implementation must also take into account the varying needs of traditionally under-served populations and students of color. Student voices must be a key component in these discussions and policy recommendations.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.</p> <p>Sincerely, Abbey Winter</p>
York, David	Denver	0	<p>Just as a simple example: state and federal highways traversing Denver are extremely dangerous for pedestrians with many schools situated within a block or two of major highways yet CDOT has done zero to improve pedestrian safety in the 22 years I've lived in my home. Pedestrians take their life into their own hands whenever walking. You will never get people out of their cars until dramatic improvements are made for pedestrians, mostly the poor utilize public transit and then only as owning/operating an auto is out of their budget.</p>
Davis, Cherisse	Denver	0	<p>Schools can do so much to prevent issues from reaching crisis point with students in the first place. I think the best example of this I've seen lately is replacing detention with meditation practices. This article from the Parent Teacher Association describes the benefits: <a href="https://ptaourchildren.org/meditation-not-detention/">https://ptaourchildren.org/meditation-not-detention/</a></p> <p>So much of school safety is reactionary. I'm not saying that is absolutely necessary to have procedures in response for responding to an active shooter. But we can also be proactive in looking at school safety and get ahead of the issues. It's hard work, but we owe it to Colorado's students.</p>

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<p>Becker, Barb</p>	<p>Denver</p>	<p>Mental Health First Aid Colorado and Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council</p>	<p>Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorder. Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is designed specifically for individuals working with youth, and has recently been expanded to include younger children. Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) is a program being piloted across the nation for high school youth. All of these curricula were developed in Australia and then adapted in the USA. The American version of tMHFA added the components of school violence, expanded self-care and substance abuse. These programs are effective tools that can be used in educational settings to give people needed skills. Youth are encouraged to seek help for themselves and for their peers. Adults are taught how to recognize potential mental health or substance abuse issues, and identifies local resources to access. In schools that tMHFA has been piloted in, it has been shown to be successful in youth identifying peers who are experiencing suicidal thoughts, and has equipped those youth with skills to assist peers in getting the assistance that they need. As tMHFA rolls out more broadly there will be a need for financial resources to support the training of educators. These costs include training instructors (as well as the ongoing coaching support) and having a minimum of 10% of school staff trained in YMHFA (a requirement of bringing tMHFA to a school). MHFA is a comprehensive tool that a school might use for mental health and substance abuse literacy. In order to sustain the growth in Colorado there needs to be funding to support it. Mental Health First Aid Colorado and Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council recommend that this committee puts forth legislation that prepares schools to utilize these proven and promising resources by committing the financial resources necessary for schools to access programs such as YMHFA and tMHFA; this includes enhancing the MHFA line item in CDPHE to allow for more training resources to be available to teachers and other school staff and providing schools the resources they need to allow their staff to be active participants in these models. Thank you.</p>
<p>Reich, Paul</p>	<p>Telluride</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>As a member of my local BOE for the past 8 years, and someone who works in behavioral health in our community, I cannot stress enough that we need to address the social/emotional skills, and behavioral health needs of all students. While I understand the desire of the JBC to focus on threat assessments, and of our legislature to focus on the bricks and mortar approach to school safety (and the related emphasis on more SRO's in school), I believe that more needs to be done to screen, treat and refer students. We should ensure that we are accurately screening and referring students for treatment. In addition, we need to ensure that we are investing in behavioral health supports (more licensed mental health professionals in schools), and in social/emotional trainings beginning in the earliest grades. Finally, we should be encouraging schools to adopt a restorative justice model of school discipline--suspending and expelling simply removes the student from the school (and often removes them from whatever supports might be available within the school).</p>
<p>Carter, Natali</p>	<p>Littleton</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>I'm a mother of 5 children ages 5-16 who are all enrolled in Jeffco public schools. The recent concerns with school safety have really hit home for me. My sister narrowly escaped the horror of Columbine and I can't even fathom having to experience that again with my children. I believe security is only part of the issue. Our kids hear and see things at school and on social media that they should feel safe reporting to authorities and school staff members. There are ways to educate our kids and teachers to recognize warning signs and report suspicious behavior. I've been impressed by the Sandy Hook Promise and what this organization is doing to prevent violence in our schools. My teens have voiced that the threat of a school shooting looms in their minds and is frightening. After the STEM school shooting, our hearts were broken for our beautiful community. Our kids should not have to worry about their safety as they are working hard to get a quality education. For the first time, I have even considered home schooling my children. I would gladly get trained myself as a RN to educate our children and community about how we can all prevent violence in this great nation where freedom is such a privilege. Thank you for the action you are taking to keep our kids safe. They are our future and they are so very precious.</p>

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Sandowsky, Jennifer	Littleton	Brainwave Mental Health Colorado	<p>Our teens are facing extraordinary challenges, aside from just trying to be accepted by peers, and choosing what outfit to wear, or just pressure to do well in school, these are all normal stressors, we can all relate to this, however these kids are exposed to mass shootings, and dealing with watching their peers and friends end their lives, amongst other variables from social media bullying, and some have difficult family lives, despite all of this, our teens are extremely aware of these dark forces around them, we need to be real with them, we need to put ourselves in their shoes, talk with them, not at them. These kids are struggling to measure up to false expectations of gaining approval from their peers, instead it is our job to teach them authentic connections, build their self esteem, not leave their self worth to be based on a "like button" we need to provide resources to teens and parents on events, activities, and surround them with healthy alternatives. Prevention and identifying the mental health problem is only the beginning, providing them a safe place to discuss whatever challenges they are experiencing, allowing them to feel their emotions, anger, sadness, and frustration, these kids need a constructive release. Teaching our teens to pray to our Heavenly Creator should be number one, it astonishes me that so many of our teens don't know that this is even an option. Lastly, when a teen is facing depression, anxiety, PTSD, we need to have a balanced approach to their treatment plan, many will go straight to psychotropic medications as a first line approach, parents are not being told about the Black Box Warning on every antidepressant package insert label "side effect for teens up to the age of 24 is potential suicide". This is serious and this route to medicate may be helpful for some, but also needs to be monitored very closely. Our kids brains are still developing and proper organic nutrition and quality supplements "Fish oil, Magnesium, Essential Oils, along with a support system that can reach deep within to the teens soul and show them how very precious they are, how important they are, that God created them with great purpose. Ask the teens for their insight and feedback too, so they can feel included in the solution. Our children need us to continue to come together and explore all options.</p>
Falletta, Ronetta	PUEBLO	0	<p>First of all it would be nice for the whole building to have more school counselors to be able to follow up with situations in schools that have already been assessed. Our school does a wonderful job identifying situations but that lack of follow up and maintaining some sort of ongoing contact with a student who is having an issue can be difficult when counselors are pulled away for other duties or spend time doing clerical duties. All school counselors are highly qualified individuals with a specific skill set and background that is meant to address personal/social or be it mental health issues. The concern however is the high stakes and liability that comes with these situations and the lack of support at a higher level to maintain enough school counselors to do a thorough and effective job. Do we need more outsiders in schools NO reason being is that it tends to be a lot of cooks in the stew and the one individual does not know what another is doing with a particular student and there is no communication. When it comes to alleviating issues on safety in school communication and follow up are key factors. This is where things break down and then become dangerous. I also feel that there are many government officials and school board members who have no clue what it looks like on a daily basis in a school of 1000 or more students and there are many things that could happen at any given time. Our school does its best with what staff we have and we do our best to attend trainings on safety and have had many critical incident trainings but there is still room for improvement. I feel that there needs to be better communication from school to school when one school is getting a student who may have a colorful history. I also think that we need to have more school counselors who are working in the building and that the kids now and recognize. I also think that we need to have better security at our doors. In our community there are no doctors and not enough therapists who are taking on adolescents or children and that to me is a crisis that needs to be addressed. The problem is not the school it is the community outside the school with no resources.</p>
Shew, Sam	LAFAYETTE	Mental Health Colorado	<p>It has been research per the book "Why we sleep" that school start times should be later than they are. As we all know sleep is so paramount to mental well being and mood, and the simple act of moving the start time later for schools will drastically improve the mental well being of our children. Please consider this change as it will give our children much needed additional hours of sleep and will help them not only feel better but be more alert and tuned in to their studies.</p>

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Metoyer, Josephine	Aurora	0	<p>As a mother of 6, with my last graduating high school this year, I have spent my entire adult life as an active volunteer in my children's schools. For the past 20 years my service to school districts was exclusively in the Cherry Creek School District. Coming from Illinois in 1998 I was shocked that I was able to walk into my children's schools without being buzzed in. I was never able to walk into my children's schools in Illinois without being buzzed in. As of today, I can still walk into Grandview H.S. (and many other schools in neighboring districts) without any type of barrier between me and the students. Every school building should operate with a vestibule at the entrance.</p> <p>Thank you for dedicating your time to serving the Colorado People!</p> <p>Active shooter / Evacuation drills are not being implemented. My two youngest daughters were not involved in active shooter/evacuation drills while in H.S. - This is a very serious problem. K12 education is more than fundamental curriculum; It is about teaching life skills to prepare students for the world beyond K12. Active Shooter Evacuation drills should be held at least 2x a year. I want to see cameras in the parking lots, gyms, cafeterias, libraries, hallways etc... CCSD have a video surveillance deficiency and had there been proper video surveillance, they may have been able to prevent the security guard at GHS getting involved with students as well as the teacher convicted of molesting the students at Prairie MS. over \$11 million tax payer dollars were wasted on settling lawsuits. Our schools need to secure the infrastructure to provide a safe environment especially now that the Claire Davis Act is in place.</p> <p>As a parent, I would be willing to pay a Security Fee every year at registration to help offset the cost. I have spent thousands of dollars on Activity and sports fees so paying a security fee would not be a big deal. I know many other parents that feel the same way.</p> <p>I voted "Yes" on the legalization of marijuana, not because I have desire to smoke or eat it. I voted Yes because the verbiage on the bill was misleading to the fact the revenue was going to Schools!! I want to see doors locked, gunshot detection in place, and proper cameras.</p>
Walsh, Noreen	Superior	0	<p>Would like the work to focus on restricting access to guns and providing more mental health resources at schools and the community at-large. More school resource officers (full-time at each school) would be good too.</p>
Hulslander, Bailey	Centennial	0	<p>PLEASE FOCUS ON REAL SOLUTIONS THAT WILL KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE. I am a Sandy Hook Promise supporter, and I want to see violence prevention and safety programming become a major focus of the committee.</p>
Vandamme, Kathryne	Littleton	0	<p>I am a parent of 2 children that attended Columbine High School when the shootings occurred. I was also an educator for Jeffco schools teaching at a neighboring middle school. Now I have 4 grandchildren, and I am very concerned for their safety. I applaud the efforts Colorado has made to increase school safety given the continuous underfunding of public schools. Over the past 20 years, not enough has happened to reduce the possibility of mass shootings - the current shootings at the Douglas County STEM school being the most recent example. Research shows eighty percent of school shooters told someone of their violent plans prior to the event. I encourage the state legislature to provide schools with tools – like Sandy Hook Promise’s violence prevention programs - and other school safety measures. I also encourage the state legislature and state department of education to hold schools accountable for implementing best safety standards and require each school to report their progress towards these standards</p>
Ayers, Maria	Littleton	0	<p>I urge the committee to increase security measures for our schools as well as mental health resources. This should include things like metal detectors and security resource officers at all school as well as increasing the amount of mental health professionals for each school. My children were directly affected by the 2 shooter threats in Douglas County earlier this year. The fear and uncertainty that we have to go through each day that we send our children to school is unacceptable, we deserve for our children to not only feel but to know that they are safe by having policies and resources in place to keep our children safe in school.</p>
Friedman, Derek	Highlands Ranch	Moms Demand Action	<p>This comment is to inform the Committee that I believe schools will not be safe from gun violence until/unless we reduce access to guns. I hope that you create and enforce significant changes in gun access laws in Colorado. All gun owners should be required to keep their guns secured and inaccessible by anyone else in the house. All gun transactions (purchase, exchange, etc) should require a state and federal background check and should have a 10-day waiting period. Only law enforcement officers should have access to so called "long guns" that are capable of firing many bullets in quick succession (eg, AR-15). Please move forward quickly with these changes and keep our kids safer.</p>

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Lundgren, Brooke	0	0	<p>I am a teacher, and yes I know that mental-health and safety officers are needed at each and every school. I know that security doors and cameras can make a difference. I also know that there is not a single teacher who supports carrying a weapon. My husband is a USMC Veteran of the Iraqi War. He is also a teacher, and even he doesn't agree with teachers carrying guns.</p> <p>In light of everything that has happened to our poor children this spring, please work together and pass legislation that will make a difference.</p> <p>As a mom, wife and educated citizen, I support gun-control and school safety. Because as a mom and a teacher, I never forget a school shooting. I remember them every morning as I say goodbye to my children and every morning as I say hello to my students.</p> <p>Please make gun-control a priority.</p> <p>I would love to attend one of your July Saftey Committee Meetings. Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Kindly,</p> <p>~Brooke Lundgren</p>
Jaffe, Meridith	Denver	0	I do not think that arming teachers is the answer to making our kids feel safe at school. I think there should be a protocol for how the district notifies parents of a threat (timing, method of communication, content of communication) so as to avoid rumors and misinformation (and perhaps additional stress and panic due to the misinformation). Ensure that all schools are equipped with doors that lock from inside the classroom.
etrone Zavaras, Meliss:	Parker	0	Please explore the option of metal detectors at all entrances of the school. Also, explore the option of not allowing backpacks into the classrooms.
Lewis, Jody	Fruita	0	Students safety should be your #1 priority and for you to do everything in your power to see that innocent school children are safe every day!!!
Neely, Rebecca	Denver	0	PLEASE FOCUS ON REAL SOLUTIONS THAT WILL KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE. I am a Sandy Hook Promise supporter, and I want to see violence prevention and safety programming become a major focus of the committee.
Collins, Mary C	Denver	Moms Demand Action	No Comment
Estes, Becki	Arvada	Sandy Hook Promise	<p>Sandy Hook Promise has designed materials for school districts to use to help identify students at risk, provide signs to look for, and violence prevention programs that are outstanding</p> <p>Please make it possible for all districts in Colorado to have and use their materials.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Becki Estes, Sandy Hook Promise Leader</p>



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Frain Aguirre, Frances	Denver	Unite North Metro Denver	<p>I am writing with regard to students in crisis. Those students that live near and under the pollution that comes from vehicles especially those burning diesel. One of the by-products of diesel is benzene which is a known carcinogen. Many of these students imbibed the pollution from their pregnant mothers. That is not to blame the mothers, it is to blame the burning of fossil fuels and the pollution left by smelters especially in lower income areas that are super fund sites. No one in education seems to understand why so many students do not do well in school when they cannot breathe properly or when they have other health problems that may have started even before they were born! This covers the pollution of vehicles on interstate highways like I-70. That highway never should have been built where it is. Swansea elem and Garden Place Acad. were located where they are before the highway was built. Generations have been poisoned and this poison has been passed from generation to generation. We see the results in the low scores in lower income areas. Adams county area has also been infected with these poisons because of the refinery and the fracking that is spewing unregulated pollutants into the air, water and soil. Please re define the meaning of safety!</p>
Parks, Karen	Colorado Springs	0	<p>My name is Karen Parks. I am a 23-year veteran teacher, the last 15 years in the state of Colorado. I am writing to raise awareness about the Jason Flatt Act and push to have this measure pass in the state of Colorado. Based on your record of advocacy and/or focus on Colorado youth, I am hoping that the safety committee would champion this cause.</p> <p>The Jason Flatt Act has been passed in 20+ states across the country. Even though Colorado was one of the first states contacted regarding this measure and even though Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation (8th in the Nation according to the CDC), rates that have reached epidemic proportions, Colorado has not brought this measure to legislation.</p> <p>In Colorado:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suicide is the LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH for middle, and high school students; and 2nd leading cause of death for college students.</li> <li>• Every week in our nation, we lose approximately 100+ young people to suicide.</li> <li>• Colorado suicide rate has increased more than 34% since 1999.</li> <li>• The biggest failure on the part of families and communities IS INACTION. And the reason most teachers and families don't act is because we DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.</li> </ul> <p>The Jason Flatt Act is a measure that would mandate that all Colorado educators receive two hours of Suicide Prevention PD each year in order to renew their educator license. While I believe there may be some hesitation in support of this act by legislature because of the 'mandate'; I do not believe there would be any resistance from educators themselves. The majority of teachers WANT this information.</p> <p>Colorado has done a good job in creating and developing suicide prevention programs. There are many resources available to those individuals who are suffering from mental health issues; however, we have not done a good job of connecting these resources to the people who need it, or who could use it most effectively. The majority of teachers are not aware of these resources. The majority of parents are not aware of these resources. And most importantly, our young people are not aware of these resources. When it comes to the immensely high rate of death among our youth, there is a disturbing silence or at best an indistinguishable murmur. Please, be a resounding voice, a rally call in bringing this issue to the forefront of the minds and hearts of the public.</p>
Einspahr, Christie	Castle Rock	0	<p>School safety is so important. Just as important as securing the building, is the mental support provided to students. Please keep this in mind when making recommendations. Unfortunately, this is significantly tied to school funding, which is inadequate in our state.</p>
Kivett, Thomas	Commerce City	0	No Comment

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Madsen, Pat	Denver	0	Help our schools make it hard for would-be attackers to enter. Make sure there are plenty of ways kids can go to adults with concerns for themselves or their classmates. Fund psychological counselors for schools, trained people kids can get to right away. Train teachers to spot patterns and provide ways for teachers to share their perceptions with school management without having to get kids detained or expelled if at all possible consistent with safety. KEEP GUNS OUT OF SCHOOLS. Make sure that if there are resource police officers, they do not burden students of color with legal involvement, that they are really resources and not just a way to get black and brown kids a criminal justice record, that the officers have Training in when to refer a kid to mental health resources, and Training in deescalation (all adults working w/kids should have such Training. Train kids in healthy dispute resolution. Don't call kids who seek adult help tattle-tales, rather, help them work out difficult situations, model for them so they can learn these things themselves.
Levin, Scott	Denver	Anti-Defamation League	No Comment
Dutter, Donald	Highlands Ranch	0	I am a grandparent with 34 years of service in public education. To defeat the gun assaults on vulnerable students & staff we need to find solutions - not just "thoughts and prayers." Please let us know publically your specific ways to get kids out of the crosshairs of guns, viz., your school safety, emergency response planning, and prevention of threats, and reviews and evaluation of programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis. Gratefully, Donald R. Dutter
Woo, Ellen	Aurora	0	I think there should be "drill downs" of the "root causes" of the past incidents to try to understand the "why's" to go forward in making things safe; be proactive instead of reactive; questions, were the past incidents cases of "bullying", "mental health issues", lack of mental health services, need of parental oversight/parental learning issues (how to be a parent and not a "friend"), racial issues, lack of community services/support, video/social media issues....
Lane, Jack	Highlands Ranch	0	Please rely heavily on local school boards. School safety is their duty and the board, teachers, administrators and others in schools everyday have a very personal stake in their student's safety as well as their own. These folks have already considered safety options, they've studied the challenges and they want desperately to contribute to solutions. Do not politicize participation in your work.
Kane, Candace	Highlands Ranch	0	Please rely heavily on local school boards. School safety is their duty and the board, teachers, administrators and others in schools every day have a very personal stake in their student's safety as well as their own. These folks have already considered safety options, they've studied the challenges and they want desperately to contribute to solutions. Do not politicize participation in your work.
Glasser, Benis	Highlands Ranch	0	I have 2 grandchildren at Douglas County High School. I am worried and fearful for their and all students safety. I beg for you to pass and work for legislation to put in place gun safety and new gun purchase laws.
Marsh, Linda	Collbran	0	ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT, IS MISLEADING. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT LET YOU DO THAT, AND NEITHER SHOULD ANYONE ELSE. WHAT IF THERE IS A BOMB OR GAS OF SOME SORT. THEY ALREADY ARE EQUIPED WITH BARS ON THE OUTSIDE SO NO ONE CAN ENTER INTO THE BUILDING, JUST ESCAPE OUT OF THE BUILDING THAT WILL BECOME A TRAP, AND IS ALREADY. YOU NEED MORE EXITS ON YOUR GYMS. YOU NEED TO HAVE THEM WIDER AND MORE VISIBLE. YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE EXITS ON YOUR SECOND STORIES, LIKE THEY HAVE IN AIRPLANES. THE STAFF THAT IS COVERING AN EVENT SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH A MEGAPHONE AND NOT THE SCHOOL ANNOUNCING SYSTEM BECAUSE IN SOME SCHOOLS IT CANT BE HEARD OR UNDERSTOOD. AT THE BEGINING OF AN EVENT, GO OVER THE EXIT PROCESS. AND IF SOMEONE WANTED TO TAKE OUT A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WE ARE NOT READY FOR IT, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SECURITY OFFICERS AT NIGHT OR ON THE GROUNDS WHEN THE KIDS ARE PRACTICING. WHEN YOU DO THIS REMODEL, PUT IN EXTERIOR WAYS OUT AND NOT BLOCKING PEOPLE FROM EXITING. THEN PUT YOUR MONEY TOWARDS HIRING RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS FOR EVENTS AND AFTER SCHOOL EVENTS, SECURITY CAMERAS AND SOUND SYSTEMS.
Steinbach, Nicole	Golden	0	I'm deeply concerned about increasing the number of SROs and guns in our schools. I would rather appreciate if -- instead of paying massive amount of budget for non-educational actions -- the schools and the organization would move for greater mental health & gun control OUTSIDE of our education system.

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Hamilton, Pat	Thornton	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	<p>School Resource Officers are an incredible asset to have in our schools. Unfortunately, the funding mechanism by which SRO's are provided is different from school district to school district. In Adams 12 Five Star Schools case we split the cost or our SRO's with our local law enforcement agencies which cost our district \$640,000 a year. There are districts we boarder with that are paying nothing for their SRO's. It would be great if the state could fund or partially fund one SRO for every middle and high school.</p>
Pera, Mary Kay	Highlands Ranch	0	<p>Honorable Members of the School Safety Committee,</p> <p>This email is in regard to you charge to study, review, and evaluate programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis. In my longstanding work associated with school-based health centers, I have become aware of the critical role they are playing in identifying students who are at risk, getting them into treatment and protecting them. School-based health centers are literally saving students' lives every day right here in Colorado. I strongly encourage you to explore and build into your recommendations the role that these essential health care providers can play in responding to the crisis currently facing our schools. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.</p>
Manes, Diann	Highlands Ranch	0	<p>I am in favor of metal detectors and security guards to prevent entrance to schools of persons with guns. I am definitely NOT in favor of armed teachers, which would place an undue burden on teachers, in terms of learning marksmanship and the unfathomable responsibility of shooting the "right" student to protect others. Also, by the time the perpetrator enters the classroom, it is far too late!</p> <p>However, I am most interested in preventing the threat of violence before it occurs. This means not only the addition of extra mental health counselors and teacher training in "red flag" discernment—of vulnerable and disturbed individuals who might pose a threat to others. It would also mean creating a culture within school systems of cooperation and conciliation vs. competition and conflict.</p> <p>I believe we should be teaching diversity tolerance starting in kindergarten, and coping skills for dealing with the inevitable conflicts between students, as well as the emotional conflicts within the child. There are many programs available in other systems (prisons, for example), which could be modified for children and adolescents. Among them are anger management, peer mentoring, peer mediation, and non-violent communication. Experts in the field have many tools at hand.</p> <p>All this may sound like far too much change and too much work. But I believe the epidemic of school shootings is traumatizing our entire culture. Even students who are not directly affected by a particular shooting go to school every day in fear that an active shooter will enter their lives. We must tackle this ongoing national disaster with every possible tool we can.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Diann Manes</p>
Callicotte-Belmon, Caro	Louisville	0	<p>I thank you for recognizing the importance of school safety and the impact gun violence has on our communities. As the parent of rising 2nd and 4th graders, I am fearful every day for their safety. Not in schools, but in communities as well. I hope that you will consider the research done by Everytown and by Giffords Law Center in investigating best practices for reducing gun violence, including: Age limits for purchase, safe storage laws, bans on military style weapons, mandatory waiting periods, and universal background checks. The research clearly does NOT support insane ideas like arming teachers or allowing guns to be carried in schools. It's clear that the fewer guns, the fewer incidents of gun violence. Colorado has passed some great laws but has a long way to go in terms of gun safety legislation. I also have great concerns about increasing police presence in our schools, because of distrust of our officers and their commitment to impartiality and non-biased decisions, and because it creates the sense that schools are unsafe, and almost prison like..</p>

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Ricalday Aguilar, Maria	Denver	0	<p>I believe that for our schools to be safer there needs to be an increased investment in social workers, counselors, psychologists and other mental health professionals at the schools. There needs to also be LESS police presence in schools, meaning there should be less SRO's.</p> <p>Further, restorative justice practices need to be more widespread and should be a state-wide (ideally nationwide) standard. Research shows that restorative justice is more efficient than punitive consequences at addressing student behavior.</p>
Rovetta, Joyce	Highlands Ranch	0	<p>I would like to see more support for schools over all from our community and more awareness of security and of counselors for students in need.</p> <p>Joyce</p>
Orona, Anney	Yuma	0	<p>Students need more help with mental help. Students are always stressing out. So having someone that helps them will be great</p>
Duran, Fatima	Yuma	Las estrellas	<p>I think that there is so much stress out on every angle from almost everyone in our life's and sometimes people fall behind or stop trying because they don't see what's on the other side of the pressure and see it as pointless. Then they have no idea what it is that they are going to do with their lives and how to fix and make up for everything they didn't do so maybe some mental health things would be very necessary!!!!</p>
Dolin, Erin	Erie	0	<p>Any Effective Strategy for Keeping our Schools Safe Must Consider What We Know About Mass Shootings and Gun Violence in our Schools. (I will cite data throughout that can be verified via Everytown at <a href="https://everytownresearch.org/keeping-our-schools-safe/">https://everytownresearch.org/keeping-our-schools-safe/</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of those discharging guns on school grounds— 56% — have a connection to the school.</li> <li>• In up to 80% of incidents, shooters obtain their guns from home, their relative's home or from friends.</li> <li>• In most incidents of targeted school violence —93% — there are warning signs that cause others to be concerned.</li> </ul> <p>Threat Assessment Programs Can Help Schools Identify and Deescalate Dangerous Situations.</p> <p>State legislators and schools should create and fund school-based threat assessment programs—like the Everytown and AFT-endorsed Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines (VSTAG)—which create multidisciplinary teams of school personnel that receive information about potential threats made by students, assess the nature of the threats, and design interventions to manage risk and prevent violence.</p> <p>Threat Assessment Programs work:</p> <p>Several studies have found that schools that have used threat assessment programs see as few as 0.5 to 3.5% of students attempt to or carry out their threat of violence— none of them being serious threats to kill, shoot, or seriously injure someone.</p> <p>Schools should be provided funding to implement Access Control Measures, Install Interior Door Locks, and Consider if Other Security Enhancements are Appropriate</p> <p>Schools Should Establish Clear Emergency Response Plans.</p> <p>Security experts recommend that school districts have an emergency plan in place in the unlikely event a tragedy does occur. These plans should help facilitate communication between school employees, law enforcement, and other first responders. These plans should also provide clear guidance and training on what staff should do in case of an emergency.</p> <p>Arming Teachers Is Not an Effective Strategy for Preventing Gun Violence in Schools.</p> <p>Even some of the most highly trained law enforcement officers in the country, those of the New York City Police Department, see their ability to shoot accurately decrease significantly when engaged in gunfights with perpetrators.</p>

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Croswaite Brindle, Kharz	Denver	Catalively, a Colorado Nonprofit Organization	0	Catalively is a youth suicide prevention nonprofit focused on providing innovative, life-saving tools in Colorado Schools. The majority of the Board of Directors are mental health therapists passionate about saving lives. Many of us have small businesses in private practice serving the community through individual therapy and we are hopeful to engage in collaboration in schools to help students with their mental health needs from a place of hope and compassion.
Quintana, Vanessa	Denver	0	0	Our state could better serve our students to ensure their safety and development into independent thinker and leaders. We must foster supportive school climates where students feel welcomed, culture and identity celebrated, and their curiosity of the world is cultivated. Cultural pedagogy and implicit bias training must be ongoing for all school and administrative staff to truly integrate the culture and identity of students in the curriculum and culture of schools. It is imperative our schools address the systemic racism, classism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and other biases within the educational system and imbedded in school policies. By doing so, schools will increase student engagement and foster an inclusive school. Each campus ought to be a community school that can address the needs of the whole child. Our students must learn to practice self-care and develop positive coping mechanisms for life's many stressors. Not to mention, the multitudes of students who have or are experiencing adverse childhood experiences that leads to trauma. Our students need more than access to supports on campus. We need to destigmatize mental health care. I recommend requiring all students to learn the basics of healthy living, healthy relationships, and coping mechanisms. This could be taught in a workshop, small groups, or personal sessions with trained mental health professionals. Ideally, each student should be required to have a minimum of three sessions with a mental health professional so they can become familiar with the process and comfortable with vulnerability. At the very least, all students should have access to free mental health services in music, art, or talk therapy. If possible, it is best to have a diverse staff of mental health professionals that could provide the culturally responsive care. In doing so, we normalize holistic care and cultivate healthy living in our schools. There is no excuse why our students in Colorado are being ignored, neglected, and left unsafe. Colorado is facing a crisis of teen suicide and has a regular occurrence of violence in our schools. Whether it is by weapons or the cutting words of intolerance, our students feel unsafe in our schools. We ought to do more to love, care, and uplift our students. We cannot be the catalyst of the change we seek if the adults at the decision-making table are unwilling to commit to the journey of growth that stretches our thinking, collective living, and bold leadership.
Williams, Patrick	Denver	0	0	Stronger immunization requirements are necessary to protect the health of students and the community at large. Please address this issue in your committee meetings.
Shore, Lynn	Parachute	0	0	Please allows trained teachers, staff and community members to carry concealed firearms on school property. An on site response is the quickest way to stop someone determined to hurt students.
Lyndon, Marilynn	Longmont	0	0	My name is Marilynn, and as a volunteer with the Colorado Chapter of Moms Demand Action, I would like to submit the following comment:  I am against placing guns in schools. The more guns there are, the higher the chance of an unintended fatality. Why not focus on common sense gun control efforts. In up to 80% of school shooting incidents, shooters obtain their guns from home, their relative's home or from friends. If responsible gun owners properly secured their firearms they wouldn't fall into the hands of people/students that should not have access. Having schools and parent groups partner with existing safe-storage programs and dispersing that information district/state wide can be an effective tool to proactively stop gun violence before it starts.
Argilla, Sylvia	Longmont	0	0	Please do everything you can to keep guns out of our schools, off our playgrounds and school parking areas. Ban assault weapons in Colorado. Improve access to mental health treatment.
Woodward, Sandra	Longmont	0	0	Please use your influence to enact laws for improved gun safety and look closely at the recommendation of Mom's against gun vioece!!
Aleksiev, Amy	Longmont	0	0	1) Under no circumstance should there be guns in our schools. 2) When there is a threat that is being investigated by the school to determine if it legitimate, there should be no penalty to the student if the parent chooses to keep their child home from school that day.

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Dutkin, Sangwon	Niwot	0	My name is Sangwon Virginia Dutkin and as a community member and parent of 3 children, I would like to submit the following comment. There is absolutely no evidence that shows arming teachers or school staff increases safety. In fact there are numerous reports and stories about guns belonging to school employees "accidentally" going off. The argument to arm teachers is one that doesn't take into account fact based proven solutions. In any argument about school safety we must include the importance of safe storage of guns. In up to 80% of school shooting incidents, shooters obtain their guns from home, their relative's home or from friends. Having schools and parent groups partner with existing safe-storage programs and dispersing that information district/state wide can be an effective tool to proactively stop gun violence before it starts.
Eagan, Jeff	Longmont	0	Given Colorado's unfortunate and long history of mass shootings, I think it is time for our state to be on the leading edge of making our schools as safe as possible. I ask for diligence and non-partisan engagement in this endeavor for the sake of my kids and our future. Thanks
Knight, Shannon	Lakewood	0	No Comment
Caceres, Jill	Longmont	Moms Demand Action	My name is Jill Caceres and as a volunteer with the Colorado Chapter of Moms Demand Action, I would like to submit the following comment... There is absolutely no evidence that shows arming teachers or school staff increases safety. In fact there are numerous reports and stories about guns belonging to school employees "accidentally" going off. The argument to arm teachers is one that doesn't take into account fact based proven solutions. In any argument about school safety we must include the importance of safe storage. In up to 80% of school shooting incidents, shooters obtain their guns from home, their relative's home or from friends. If responsible gun owners properly secured their firearms they wouldn't fall into the hands of people/students that should not have access. Having schools and parent groups partner with existing safe-storage programs and dispersing that information district/state wide can be an effective tool to proactively stop gun violence before it starts.
Yagow, Michelle	Thornton	0	Two things:  1. Mandatory bullying education at all levels: elementary, middle, & high school. I teach high school, and my students don't know what bullying looks like, nor do they have strategies to cope with or report it.  2. More social workers, counselors, and other mental health providers in schools. My school has 2 social workers and 6 counselor, for a population of 2000 students; they are overworked and unable to keep up with the mental health needs of our student body
Begley, Jack	Longmont	0	I would love to testify on the first day.
Napoleon, Josephine	Aurora	Johnson Controls Security Solutions	As a commercial security professional, my vertical is the K12 market and I focus on helping schools secure their population. It is a GREAT concern at the lack of school security across our state. It is a travesty of equality as I see the wealthy Denver metro school districts able to afford proper solutions while our rural districts STRUGGLE with many not able to afford the bare essentials. Colorado is a thriving state and yet our schools continue to go without. We Must Do Better! Schools must be equipped with proper government commercial grade security. I find schools resorting to cheap equipment that opens them up to being vulnerable to cyber attacks and failed equipment. Part of the problem across our state is the mindset of our school officials. Despite Colorado's historic past of mass shootings, the "It won't happen here" mentality continues to permeate throughout our school districts and communities. We have schools without intercom systems which would be the first component for mass communication. There are schools with cameras in place that don't work and I can still walk into the front door of schools without being addressed by a school employee. It is clear that we need a state initiative to set a proper code and policy to protect our students and staff. I would like to see a special committee made up of a collective group which would include, security professionals, school officials, students, parents, law enforcement and legislators to mindfully create a school security code. A code that will set the foundation for other states to follow and adopt across the nation. This is an initiative that is long overdue and it is one that must be given the proper time, effort and funds to create and implement.

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Born, Judy	Thornton	0	As a retired school secretary and a grandmother to three granddaughters facing their school years it is imperative that we offer a safe environment for our children to receive their education. No child, teacher or staff member should have to fear being a part of our school system. No teacher should ever have to be asked to yield a weapon to educate our children. This is America. We can and must do more to stop gun violence. Using education to teach staff, students, parents and community how to recognize potential violence and where to safely report is an excellent place to start.
Wolpe, Donna	Centennial	0	No Comment
Hinrichs, Wendi	Erie	Moms Demand Action	Please keep guns out of schools.
McRae, Jane	Lyons	0	Guns do not belong in schools. Teachers should not have to worry about protecting their students from gun violence and arming teachers should NOT be an option. Please do NOT put more money in the NRA's pockets by arming teachers. Please RESIST the NRA by enforcing age limits for gun ownership, stronger background checks, red flag laws, waiting periods and bans on bump stocks, automatic rifles and semi-automatic rifles. Please use Common Sense and PROTECT OUR KIDS. This should not be the responsibility of students or their teachers. BE ADULTS and TAKE ACTION to help prevent more kids from getting killed. NO MORE DEAD KIDS. PLEASE.
Kelly, Barbara	Broomfield	0	I'm a substitute science teacher for the Boulder Valley School District, and the idea of walking into a school in which teachers may be armed terrifies me. Were I a salaried teacher at a school that asked it's staff to carry weapons, I would quit.  As a substitute I have no quick way of finding out, at 6:00 in the morning when I receive assignments, if a school's teachers pack heat, nor do I want to be put in the position of having to find out.  Guns in schools, no matter to whom they belong, is a terrible concept. Please do not support legislation that requires teachers, who have studied for years to teach their subjects, to carry lethal weapons for which they are untrained.
Ruffalo, Juliana	Erie	Moms Demand Action	Keep guns out of our schools! We appreciate anything you can do to help further this movement and protect our children while they should be in safe learning environments! Thank you!!
Nicholas, Charia	LAFAYETTE	0	My daughter and son in-law are both teachers here in Colorado. As responsible gun owners, they do NOT feel having school staff and teachers carry guns, no matter if trained to do so, would make their students or themselves safer in school. Please do not allow guns in our schools!
Vediovis	0	0	I would say that school safety is not a question lockdowns or militarizing staff and building a wall to the radicalized few who seek violence. Despite the magnitude of such criminality when it happens, I think it is dangerous to train and acculturate children to that mindset. That creates a world vision that does not generally conform to everyday reality, but does establish and maintain a pervasive climate of fear. Of course we know that fear is an effective tool to develop compliance in individuals and groups, but that is not what we want in our children. It is not what I want. The occurrences are in fact vanishingly infrequent in the overall scheme of the number of schools in children in the nation. Better to take preventative measures including improved mental health services, social emotional learning, and social services to address the majority of the (small number of) people who do commit such crimes- i.e. those 90% already in the schools. Helping troubled children strikes me as far superior to terrorizing all children with pervasive and constant visions of shooters and killers in their places of learning.
Sturm, Deirdre	Longmont	0	When looking at safety in our schools, please take a wholistic approach and address the entire issue. Most of the guns used by young people in school shootings were legally obtained by parents, and then taken by the children. Holding owners responsible for the safety of their guns through mandatory gun locks and safe gun storage is a good place to start. I do not want my child going to school with armed guards and teachers, that is a knee jerk response that evidence does not hold to be effective.

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Miller, Emily	Broomfield	Moms Demand Action	Thank you for the time and effort you are spending on this important topic. It is near and dear to my heart, as my friend was involved in a gun tragedy that left her 13 year old son dead. I feel that the most important thing we can do is keep the guns in people's homes safe. They need to be kept in safes, where they are only taken out by adults for proper use. Education is the key. We need to educate the gun owners to be responsible and safe with their firearms so that accidents don't happen and so that kids cannot have access to these guns if they decide they want to do something to hurt other people.
Minick, Eleanor	Broomfield	0	As a volunteer with the Colorado Chapter of Moms Demand Action, I would like to submit the following comment... There is absolutely no evidence that shows arming teachers or school staff increases safety. In fact there are numerous reports and stories about guns belonging to school employees "accidentally" going off. The argument to arm teachers is one that doesn't take into account fact based proven solutions. In any argument about school safety we must include the importance of safe storage. In up to 80% of school shooting incidents, shooters obtain their guns from home, their relative's home or from friends. If responsible gun owners properly secured their firearms they wouldn't fall into the hands of people/students that should not have access. Having schools and parent groups partner with existing safe-storage programs and dispersing that information district/state wide can be an effective tool to proactively stop gun violence before it starts. There is evidence that single point of entry, fencing or external door locks that prevent unauthorized access to schools can provide safety within the school for our children.
Faussone, Lindsay	Denver	0	No Comment
Hastings, Jim	Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs School District 11	I am interested in representing D11 for committee work studying statutes governing school safety, emergency response planning, and prevention of threats, and reviews and evaluates programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis.
Collard, Sue	Longmont	VOOZG3	I am a retired teacher in the Boulder Valley School District. I was teaching when Columbine and Sandy Hook happened. Those shootings dramatically changed the climate of our schools. We had to introduce safety drills focused on being safe in case of an intruder. Teachers began carrying walkie talkies on the playground in case of an emergency. The school was on lock down as soon as the day began. All of these measures hopefully made our school more safe, but they also made it feel more prison-like. We were willing to do all of these things to help the safety of the children, but all of the teachers and staff did not want to be armed. We were not comfortable in facing an invader with guns...even if we went through a "training". It seems that there could be more injuries and deaths if teachers were armed. Thank you for you attention. Sue Collard.



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O'Brien, Leslie	Broomfield	Moms Demand Action	<p>I am a volunteer for Moms Demand Action and a leader for BeSMART, a bipartisan education program for helping adults keep kids safe around guns and other safety issues. The reason I've become involved in MOMS and the BeSMART program to help protect my 3rd and 1st grade daughters and their classmates.</p> <p>We have failed our kids up until this point. Adding guns in schools is NOT the answer. There are numerous reports of accidental shootings with armed school staff. The answer is to educate the ADULTS who care for kids safety to BeSMART - S: securing your weapon in homes and vehicles. M : Modeling responsible behavior around guns. A: asking other adults about weapons and their storage in their homes R: recognizing the risks of suicide in others and T: Telling everyone to BeSMART.</p> <p>The vast majority of school shooters have obtained their guns from family or friends homes. They are able to do this as most children are aware of where their family "hides" their weapons and have easy access to unsecured ammunition. This is why having the BeSMART presentation on the agenda in Back to School nights, PTO/PTA meetings, and other parent - facing opportunities would be hugely beneficial in helping protect our children from easy access to unsecured weapons, and bringing safety conversations to the forefront of this issue.</p> <p>I wish you all the best in making crucial decisions for the safety of our children. And I'm happy to show you the presentation to see how beneficial it is for adults to see.</p> <p>Many thanks, Leslie O'Brien</p>
Pottorff, Wendy	Limon	Limon Public Schools School Board and CASB BOD	Please be mindful that large districts and rural districts have their own unique issues. Thank you!
Wissmueller, Angela	Highlands Ranch	0	<p>Please see emails I sent to dafna.michaelson.jenet.house@state.co.us for more details, but I am trying to initiate Nuremberg-like Trials to stop the school-to-prison pipeline holocaust, and have asked the Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser and Governor Jared Polis to initiate them in Colorado. Police bothered me on May 7th, 8th, and arrested me on May 12th. On May 7th, Officer Wes Body of Castle Rock Police came to my home in Highlands Ranch during the STEM School tragedy on a day I was emailing the Colorado Attorney General's office, and his staff was playing games. I asked the Sheriff, who has dealt with calls from people who want to silence me for 6.5 years, to remove the officer at my door, and he left, and then I saw the news about STEM's tragedy on the TV, and they were still looking for the perpetrators. I believe the State of Colorado wanted to frame me for the tragedy, which is something I would never do. I've been urging Nuremberg-like Trials to stop the school-to-prison pipeline holocaust since 2015, during the James Holmes trial, which I tried to submit evidence for to the court, about the threat assessment team and its policy and training. I was mishandled by the same University of Colorado BETA/ CARE threat assessment team, by some of the same people in his case, in 2013. Now, in 2019, I have to take a court ordered competency evaluation, but that is not scheduled yet by the court, for emailing the court about my arrest, which was questionable, and for speaking of a "cover up," my fears of the police and court, and my requests to reach the Colorado Attorney General and Governor about initiating Nuremberg-like Trials to stop the school-to-prison pipeline holocaust, which is exactly what I was doing when police rang my doorbell, and a tragedy occurred at STEM School. My email about "Officer Wes Body" received a reply from the International Criminal Court on May 8th, before my arrest on the 12th. I will send the full comment I wrote via email, as your public comment section only accepts 2500 characters.</p>

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Wormley, Anne	Centennial	0	I am a retired teacher from Adams #12 Five Star Schools. Over 12 years ago my school district had a lock down policy that provided safety for the whole school district. I would highly recommend that the state of Colorado looks at the Adams #12 lock down procedures and consider adopting a state wide procedure that is uniform throughout the whole state of Colorado at all public schools. Some of our students are pretty mobile. When they move to a new school district and the lock down procedures were still the same this would make it much easier for new students. #12 had such good procedures that elementary students were safe between 15-30 seconds. I hope you consider adopting a state wide uniform lock down procedure for Colorado public schools.
Bench, Paula	Denver	Moms Demand Action	Volunteer member
Ruffalo, Matthew	Erie	0	In 100 years, kids will be reading about our current gun situation in their history books. It will be amazing to them that we allowed such easy access to lethal weapons and that we stood by and watched hundreds of senseless shootings take place in our schools, malls, grocery stores, etc without doing a damn thing to change it. It will be ludicrous for them to learn that the US led the world in these types of shootings while other countries around the world found ways to curb the senseless violence. It's a pretty sad tale to think about them reading about our great country and wondering why it took so long to make such drastic changes to something so very obvious. Let's make a change today to STOP gun violence in our schools!
Ruffalo, Phyllis	Westminster	0	How many students and members of our communities are going to die because of reckless gun use? Why are they everywhere and why is it necessary for anyone but police and military to have automatic weapons? Ban the automatic weapons and make gun laws to curb the amount of guns and who can use them!
Taylor, George	Como	0	I oppose any attempt to blame this STEM shooting on firearms. The circumstances surrounding this shooting require a much deeper investigation and analysis of the school policies and the lack thereof of oversight on the part of school administration namely actions or the lack thereof to investigate and deal with students behavior that was reckless, anti-social and contrary to proper order and discipline. The drug culture ought to be fully investigated and addressed. Contrary to the bias and media distortion and the phony narration on the arming of teachers. This along with harden schools and proper school disciplinary policies need to be addressed. It is naive to suggest or think that additional gun safety, a.k.a gun control will address this situation. Focus on the individuals involved and the cultural, social and mental health underpinnings to solve this unfortunate event. Until students, teachers and the administration start addressing the dysfunctional societal root causes, this situation will only happen again. The events in this particular shooting look similar to Columbine. Dysfunctional students who apparently were unknown or if known were not proper dealt with by school officials. I suspect PC and identity politics likely have made it into this narration whereby, school officials were reluctant to address and deal with these behavioral issues effectively for fear of a lawsuit or other legal action. Disgusting to read about this incident and the underlining concerns which were not dealt with appropriately. When in the world will society and the local community start to see REAL leadership on these situations involving students who lack any decency or concern for fellow students and human life? If you don't address these psychological motivations and urges to commit violence on helpless individuals; you and everyone else looking at this situation and problem will never address it properly or get it right. Guns don't kill, people kill. Focus on the people and leave the guns out if the conversation. Show some LEADERSHIP and get to the root causes of the people/human factors that causes and results in these tragedies.
Terry, Russell	Parker	0	Our schools and children should be afforded the same protections the rich and powerful get, namely, armed protectors. Be that hired school resource officers and/or armed educators. Teachers licensed to carry should be given the opportunity to protect our children. We need to harden the existing soft targets against the evil doers, not make it easier for them to commit these heinous acts of violence in gun free zones. Stripping law abiding citizens of their rights is not and never will be the answer. More restrictive gun laws will not solve the problem.

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Capano, Jim	Windsor	0	<p>Until we as a community can admit there are issues with some peoples psychological stability. There are no laws, be it more restrictions on guns, ammo, magazines, vehicles, items to make explosives with. That will stop one bent on destruction, be it in a school, mall, movie theater, home. Nothing can prevent anyone from going off the deep end. One must be aware a family member, friend, neighbor who exhibits irrational behavior. No i don't mean because they own an evil looking gun. But odd stuff that one says, oh boy they have issues. And are willing to come forward to say something. Not behind an anonymous phone call, but actually step up and say . Hey X may be a danger to them self or society. Nothing will prevent violence from happening.</p> <p>Murder is illegal and that doesn't stop this from happening. Gun laws don't work. Look at California, a shooting happens and the first thing the lawmakers propose is Tougher Gun Laws. Yet there's still shootings in CA. More laws don't equate to less violence. Tougher sentencing, NOT Plea Bargaining, no early release from prison for violent offenders etc. Acknowledge a student has issues, not ignore them hoping it doesn't ruin the schools standing That's where you start.</p>
Armstrong, Ken	Eagle	0	<p>Please do not let another tragic crime, committed by a human, not a gun, influence our constitutional right to possess a firearm of our choosing for personal protection. Guns don't kill people...people kill people. If not a gun than a knife, a car, or some other weapon. Criminals are criminals because they don't obey laws. Bad actors will always have guns no matter the law in place. The idea that our communities will be safer by keeping law abiding citizens from owning them (while bad actors possess them) is nothing short of lunacy. I propose we arm teachers and post armed security on every school campus in Colorado and then make it well known that schools are no longer soft targets. Why do you think schools have been targets for lunatics to carry out their evil? My belief is that they know firearms are not allowed on school grounds...a soft target. Our law about this is insane. Remove the means of protection of our children from the premissis and then advertise this fact to the world. Let's afford our children the same protection we do to adults in courthouses. Anything less is continuing the travesty.</p>
Browning, Terry	Westminster	0	<p>I fully understand the pain that the STEM shooting has caused our communities here in Colorado. Take the example from Parkland , Florida though. Rather than trying to ban their way into a false sense of security they have been proactive and realized that the school staff are the first line of defense and are allowing the staff to carry concealed firearms. Colorado needs to act in the same manner. Gun Free zones have become killings fields and that needs to stop.</p> <p>Let's also take a look at the fact that the majority of the shooters in these atrocities have been on psychotropic drugs for mental illnesses. THAT is a larger piece of the puzzle than the firearms.</p> <p>Thank you, Terry Browning</p>
Park, John	Highlands Ranch	0	<p>As a parent, i firmly believe addressing mental health is a primary response to school shootings. Bullying should be severely dealt with. Stress and depression should be addressed in students. I do not support gun control in schools. It is not working. Allow willing parents/volunteers to supplement armed security personnel. Funding for reinforced interior doors to lock out threats is also a primary means of dealing with active shooters. Thank you</p>
Fulcher, Glenn	Ault	0	<p>We need to protect our community, that includes the schools our children attend, Do not let our state become a Chicago, arm our schools with trained concealed weapons personal.</p>

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Shepherd, Richard	Fort Collins	0	<p>Please keep the meetings, and any legislative action following them, to the aforesaid meeting subject heading. Anti- firearm groups are organizing NOW to push the panel into strict gun control law action. Remember the parents of the STEM shooters DID have the firearms involved secure in a safe, which the students used an axe and a crowbar to break into , then tried to set the house on fire. NO gun law would have stopped them. Mental health intervention beforehand, ( they were clearly mentally disturbed, as most student shooters have been), and proper school security during the incident , may have. PLEASE focus on tighter security and adequate mental health treatment availability in each and every middle and high school. In too many of these cases, we later learn students were known to be mentally disturbed. Thank you.</p>
Miller, Constance	Canon City	0	<p>The way to safety for all citizens, especially our school children, is to make sure that more "good people" than "bad people" carry guns. Administrators, teachers and school employees must be trained and ready with concealed carry firearms (inaccessible and unknown to students) to stop active shooters immediately! "When seconds count the police are only minutes away!" BTW: Why is it that our children are considered precious when the topic is gun control, but children are not considered human beings when the topic is abortion?</p>
Meisinger, Janet Lett	Dacono	All Americans	<p>Most attacks are not properly investigated and are done in gun free zones. Many cities, counties and states are realizing that teachers and others need to be trained in gun safety and use so they can defend their students and themselves. Our Weld County is a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary as are many other counties in Colorado. Notice!!! You cannot legislate away our natural rights to protect ourselves or violate our state and national constitutions!</p>
Brubaker, Brett	Canon City	0	<p>Students should not be allowed to carry guns to school. Peoples with medically diagnosed mental conditions should not be allowed to own guns. The cities with the strongest prohibition of gun ownership have the highest deaths from guns. Criminals - and criminal minded - will always find a way to be well-armed. I see nothing wrong at all with well trained or hired police, etc. in protecting gun violence at schools. Gun violence at school is a terrible, heart-wrenching event. Please understand that the statistics of those who are killed by guns is very low, the higher levels are from criminals or cities like Chicago where we lived for ten years. The largest number of gun deaths are from suicide.  This lovely and great state needs to get its priorities right when it comes to gun ownership. As they stand now they need to be seriously re-addressed. This includes the important issue at hand to which I am commenting.  In closing, let me quote one of our great Founding Fathers!!!  "My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government."--Thomas Jefferson</p>
Mathews, Julie	Centennial	0	<p>I would like your committee to consider finding ways to decrease class size in schools. In my 25 years of education, I have learned that students need to connect to teachers. This is difficult when there are 28+ students in a classroom. Please consider inviting teachers or other educators to your meetings to hear their thoughts on this. I work in a "good" school district, but watching the class sizes rise, and the needs of our students increase at the same time, makes me concerned that school shootings will continue. What we need in every school is fewer students in a classroom so the adult who is with them for 8 hours a day can spend more with each individual student and meet their needs and identify concerns. Our classroom teachers are the best defense against this issue, but they need our help.</p>

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Reed, Ethan	Parker	0	<p>On May 7th, during my eighth period, I received a Snapchat from one of my friends who attends the STEM school, and he told me about an active shooter inside their school. My eyes opened wide, and I started to shake. My body completely froze, and I didn't know what to tell my friend. Was it a joke, I thought? I had no idea what was happening, so I quickly turned to my news apps, and saw no reports of anything happening at the time, so I went back to my friend and asked him what was going on. He replied about a minute later saying there was an active shooter in the school and that he was hearing gunshots and screams. He went on to tell me that if he were to get shot and killed, that he wanted to know that he loved me, and was inspired by my work as a youth political activist. I told him to get out of the school as fast as possible and that I loved him too but tried to assure him that he would make it out alive. Minutes later he told me that he had gotten out of the building. He went on to tell me that he witnessed another boy fall to the ground, getting shot in the back while attempting to escape the school. My friend continued saying that he had seen blood splattered on the floor while he ran outside of the school, and closed his eyes to not see anything else. He went on to tell me how a boy in his class lunged and bolted at the person with the gun, and got shot. That boy turned out to be Kendrick Castillo. During this whole time I was in my English class, so I was told to please get off my phone - but the thing is, I couldn't. I couldn't think at the time, and my heart was beating fast. I snuck my phone under my desk, and kept looking for news, where the shooting was finally being reported, where news stated that there were possible multiple injuries. I replied to my friend, telling him to get to his home as fast as he could and that I would be there for him every day. Hours went by, and he finally responded, where he told me that he was going to take a break from his phone and any sort of technology for a few days. He didn't finish the last few days of the school year. But since then, I have been talking to him every day to make sure he is doing well. A few days after the shooting, he went to the doctor where he was diagnosed with survivors guilt, anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, and depression. This is my friends' story, and he would like me to spread his story to be heard. Thank you.</p>
Mandi, Rachel	Denver	Moms Demand Action	<p>As a mother, it is critical to me that we find a way to keep our children safe at school. There is plenty to worry about when preparing for the education of your child, and I would rather focus on their education rather than worrying about their safety. Please look for a way that we can prevent threats against our children's safety so they can learn in peace. The amount of violence and threats we are facing in this country is beyond belief, and serious attention needs to be placed on how we prevent this and G-D forbid respond should this happen again. We need to keep guns out of the hands of children.</p>