

Mr. Chair, members of the committee, I am reading this statement for Lisa Gaia Henry.

Thank you for this opportunity to present today. I am Lisa Gaia Henry, retired counselor, from Dolores, CO in Montezuma County, representing myself. I support this ERPO bill.

I lost the love of my life to suicide 3 years ago. If this red flag law had been in place, I might have been able to buy some time to find services to address his suicidal ideation.

Unfortunately, our mental health services in the rural four corners area do not serve our community needs. We have very high numbers for suicide & opioid addiction. We are one of the few counties who did not receive funding to address health & public safety.

I have served people of domestic violence, sexual assault & suicidal ideation. Perpetrators of domestic violence often have access to guns in their home. In the heat of crisis & the chronic, silent threat of violence; a red flag law would enable a family member to seek support until crisis is defused. This is not an act of vindication. It is a life or death decision to slow the process of escalating violence. I believe due process is very clear & reasonable.

I support the 2nd amendment, sensible gun legislation & education to keep families & communities safe from gun violence. If there are no guns in a home or school, there are no incidents or consequences for fatal shootings.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am reading this testimony for Judy Schuenemeyer from Cortez, CO, Senate District 6.

Mr.Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present today. My name is Judy Schuenemeyer and I represent myself. I live in Don Coram's Senate District 6.I'm urging your support of HB19-1177.

As intelligent and reasonable people, you certainly know that there are individuals who are so unstable that you wouldn't want them near you or your family with a gun. These are individuals whose mental state temporarily or permanently makes them dangerous to themselves, law enforcement personnel and the rest of us, if they have access to guns. I believe this because of experiences I had as an attorney representing victims of domestic violence and other experiences. I am sharing some of those experiences with you in the hope that you will support this bill.

I had a second cousin who had a farm in eastern Colorado. He was widely known to be mentally unbalanced and threatening but no one would do anything so he could get treatment. He shot and killed a neighbor and spent the rest of his life in what was then the State Hospital in Pueblo.

I know of two incidents in rural areas in which a man shot and killed his children, his ex-wife and his in-laws. I know of an incident in which a man shot and killed his wife when she was on her way to court with her lawyer. I know of an incident in which a man shot and killed his ex-wife in the parking lot as she was leaving work. I know of cases in which a lawyer representing one spouse was shot and killed by the other spouse, Richard Luhman in Cortez being one.

The right to live and/or to be free of horrendous gun inflicted injuries is a greater right than the right of a seriously mentally impaired person to bear arms. Please think about your children and grandchildren and my four granddaughters before you vote on this bill.

Thank you.

Judy Schuenemeyer
960 Sligo Street
Cortez, CO 81321