

Hello, My name is Terry Crook. I live in Boulder. Thank you so much for this bill. This is something that I realized almost thirty years ago was an absolute necessity .

On March 29th.1990 ,My daughter Katie, was born. One week later, my parents were murdered by a mentally ill relative, who then shot himself. They never saw my their new granddaughter. My parents knew that my mom's uncle was becoming mentally ill and were trying to help him. In a newspaper article written after my parent's death the local police department was interviewed. They said that they had had a few contacts with this man and they could see he was getting crazier and crazier and they thought he might be a risk to himself , but didn't think he would harm others. Like many other shooters my mom's uncle had shown the warning signs of someone who should have been restricted from owning guns, but the police had no power to act. Giving police or family members the opportunity and power to intervene in these cases would save lives.

Last week I had a long talk with a congressman from Colorado Springs who was kind enough to speak with me at length. But after we talked for a while and he realized that I wanted more gun control and thought that this Red Flag law should be passed, he accused me of **wanting** to take away guns. When my kids were young and we were saving money for college, we talked about whether something is a want or a need before a purchase. If something was just a want we didn't buy it. In the case of dangerous mental illness, I do not **want** to take away guns, we **need** to take away guns in order to protect our own lives and the lives of our loved ones. I did not want my parents to be murdered and to suffer extreme PTSD after their deaths. I did not want to have a panic attacks after their deaths if I would even see a gun either on TV or in the hands of a policeman. Before they were murdered, I never even had a second thought about guns. In the wink of an eye my whole being change and I had no choice but to see a gun as an extreme risk to my life and the lives of others. This was burned into me by the trauma I suffered. All of a sudden gun I saw control as a need **not** a want. So if you see this as a step toward taking away your guns you are wrong. You should see this as a way of keeping your guns and your second amendment rights. If we control easy access to guns for people who's minds aren't healthy enough to use them responsibly then less people would be killed in senseless violence and there will be less people out there like me who are so traumatized by gun violence that even the sight of a gun on tv or in the hands of a policeman retraumatizes us. Many polls have shown that the majority of people in this country want more gun control and it is your job as leaders in a democracy to represent us. Like so many mass shooters the Parkland shooter showed many warning signs, but at that time Florida had no red flag law like ERPO law. A nationwide study of mass shootings from 2009 - 2016 revealed that in at least 42 percent of those incidents the shooter showed dangerous warning signs before the shooting. Having the power to act given those warning signs would save lives.

Evidence shows that Extreme Risk Protection Orders can help prevent firearm suicides. In the ten years after Indiana enacted its Red Flag law, the state's firearm suicide rate decreased by 7.5 %. Following Connecticut's increased enforcement of its Red Flag law, the law was associated with a 14% reduction in the state's firearm suicide rate. And ERPO legislation has seen bipartisan support in 14 states, including Florida and Illinois, & some have already enacted similar laws, & many legislatures across the country are considering this potentially life-saving measure.

As your constituent, I'm calling on you to support HB 1177, a bill which would give Colorado families and law enforcement officers a critical tool they need to keep their communities safe and prevent gun tragedies, a Red Flag law.

HB 1177 would give family members and law enforcement officers the power to ask a court to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) temporarily blocking an individual's access to firearms when they pose a risk to themselves or others. Because family members and law enforcement officers are often among the first to see the warning signs of a potential tragedy, these bills would help address shootings and gun suicides.

Now is the time to act and do everything we can to prevent another shooting of any kind.