



Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

Representative Ryden and House State Affairs Committee Members
Colorado State Capitol
200 E. Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Ryden and Committee Members,

We are writing to you today in the hopes that you will take steps to preserve the safety and security of our state's people in the event of that a State of Emergency is declared. Under current Colorado Statute, the Governor has the authority to "suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation" of firearms among other things.

The proponents of SB16-176 are concerned that during a State of Emergency, the Governor would needlessly take away guns and limit the sale of firearms. There is no evidence that this would be true, since these provisions have not been invoked by a Governor of Colorado. The Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police maintain that the Governor must have the flexibility to protect people from those who would seek to harm person or property. Despite the many hypothetical situations that come to mind, during a disaster there is no rationale to limit the Governor's power in one of these areas and not the others. We believe this power to be one of the most important bestowed upon the Governor.

As we have seen unfold time and time again, in dire and unfortunate circumstances, many institutions of both government and society are strained or even broken, thus being rendered incapable of operating at a normal capacity. This provision of the Colorado Statute protects the public good, the safety our public safety first responders, and allows for coordinated action to engage in recovery efforts. If, in the case of a disaster, there is a wave of vigilantism, the last thing law enforcement wants is for there to be a proliferation of firearms in a volatile environment. This statute is not intended to infringe on the rights of citizens, rather to give the authority to make decisions that could save lives in a time where rational thought is at a premium.

In conclusion, in times of great need, to protect our men and women in uniform, and to ensure the safety of the public at large, we urge you to vote against SB 176. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rick Brandt
President, Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police