



June 1, 2020

Chairman Kennedy and Members of the State Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Colorado Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America I am writing in support of HB20-1355 and HB20-1356.

We support HB20-1355 because Colorado communities need an effective tool to help prevent unauthorized access to firearms, and unintentional shootings. Since 2015, there have been at least 20 unintentional shootings by children in Colorado, resulting in 8 deaths and 13 injuries. Among them was a 9-year-old boy who was shot and killed by his 8-year-old brother after he found a handgun in a vehicle, and a 2-year-old boy who fatally shot himself after he accessed his mother's handgun.

More than four million U.S. children live in a household with at least one loaded, unsecured gun. Every year, hundreds of children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, and hundreds more die by gun suicide – most often using guns that belong to a family member. In up to 80 percent of incidents of gun violence on school grounds, shooters obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends. A secure storage law would protect against unintentional shootings by requiring firearms that a juvenile or a prohibited person is likely to access to be securely stored either with a locking device or inside a locked gun safe, when not under the control of the gun's owner.

We support HB20-1356 because across the country hundreds of thousands of guns are stolen every year, taken from houses, vehicles, and stores. Gun thefts often divert guns into an underground market where people with dangerous histories are easily able to obtain firearms without restriction. Stolen guns are also linked to crime — in fact, many guns found at crime scenes can be traced through the underground market. The majority of the 23,000 stolen firearms recovered by police between 2010 and 2016 were recovered in connection with crimes, including more than 1,500 violent acts. HB20-1356 would require an individual who owns a firearm to report the loss or theft of that firearm to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours after discovering that the firearm was lost or stolen.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Douglas,
Colorado Student Demand Action liaison and Columbine survivor.