

HB 25-1238 Gun show Regulations

Thank you to the committee members for letting me speak today. My name is Claire Lucas. I am testifying on behalf of myself.

You know my story; I am one of millions of parents who has received the dreaded call. “Your child’s life is in danger.” So many Americans have had to live through the unthinkable, that they may never see their child again because someone with a gun is threatening their life.

Most of us want sensible gun laws passed. Current polling shows that preventing gun violence is a top concern for Colorado voters.

Colorado’s new gun dealer licensing requirements, which help protect against illegal gun sales and gun thefts, has been a strong step forward for the State. Help close the loop by adding safeguards to gun shows, where many seek to purchase firearms without a background check.

You may recall in the Columbine High School shooting, the shooters obtained 3 of their 4 guns from a friend who

straw-purchased them at a gun show from unlicensed sellers.

Please support HB 25-1238. A bill that strengthens the requirements for those who operate gun shows in Colorado. Help keep our communities safe.

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

02/24/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1238 Gun Show Requirements

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Paula Gruentzel For themselves	<p>I am writing to let you know my family and I SUPPORT this bill. It's been much too long before anyone did something about the gun show loophole.</p> <p>I urge all committee members to SUPPORT this bill. Remember, mass school shootings started in OUR state by a couple of high schools boys. That was only the first of many. Please support this bill.</p>
Sarah Puhr For themselves	<p>Good afternoon, members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Sarah Puhr, and I am a resident of Lafayette, Colorado. I am here today to express my support for HB25-1238. As a member of this community, I believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all our residents.</p> <p>Gun shows, as they currently operate, pose a significant risk to public safety. They often serve as a venue for individuals seeking to purchase firearms without undergoing background checks. Given Colorado's new gun dealer licensing requirements, which help protect against illegal gun sales and gun thefts, it is only logical that gun shows should have similar safeguards in place. This bill would require gun show promoters to submit security plans to local law enforcement, implement security measures such as video surveillance, and have liability insurance. These measures are essential to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands.</p> <p>As a community member, I want to see our neighborhoods safe and secure.</p> <p>By supporting HB25-1238, we can take a significant step towards reducing gun violence and ensuring that gun shows are conducted responsibly. I urge you to pass this bill for the safety of our community. Thank you.</p>
Dawn Pare For themselves	<p>Good afternoon, members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Dawn Pare I am a voter, former educator and a parent of a child who attended school here in Colorado. I am here today to express my strong support for HB25-1238. This bill is crucial for enhancing the safety and security of our communities.</p> <p>As a parent, I am deeply concerned about the ease with which firearms can be obtained at gun shows without proper oversight. The Columbine High School shooting is a tragic reminder of the consequences of lax regulations. The shooters</p>

	<p>obtained three of their four guns from a friend who purchased them at a gun show from unlicensed sellers. This bill would require gun show promoters to implement security measures, including video surveillance and liability insurance, and to submit security plans to local law enforcement. These steps are essential to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands.</p> <p>I urge you to support HB25-1238 to protect our children and ensure that gun shows are held to the same standards as other gun dealers in Colorado. Thank you.</p>
<p>Jimmy Hart Against themselves</p>	<p>HB25-1238 is nothing more than harassment of law abiding citizens who wish to exercise a constitutional right! Criminals don't obtain firearms from "Gun shows". The Montrose gun show makes it very explicit that all firearm transfers must go thru a FFL, firearms are checked in and out to enforce this law. Requiring an FFL at all tables will kill gun shows as many vendors sell no firearms, art, food, and survival items are displayed by many. Lastly, prohibiting those under 21yrs of age from attending, unless accompanied by an adult is a slap in the face for military personnel under 21, and unnecessary as the age requirements for firearm purchases are set in Federal law and must be adhered to by FFL holders. Again, this is nothing but harassment of the law abiding, and will do nothing to make Colorado citizens safer.</p>
<p>RICHARD KOEPEL Against themselves</p>	<p>yet again another feel good law that will Not stop any type of crime</p>
<p>Evie Hudak For Colorado PTA</p>	<p>Colorado PTA supports HB 1238. PTA has a long history of advocating for the safety of children and youth. It is a top priority of our association to promote the safety and well-being of all children by preventing and eliminating gun violence. The accessibility of the ever-increasing numbers of weapons contributes to the often dangerous and violent environment which surrounds many of our children and youth.</p> <p>PTA believes it is necessary to restrict the number of guns being carried by citizens, because more guns on the streets result in more gun-related deaths, such as homicides, suicides, and accidents. Regarding the specifics of this bill, PTA supports a minimum of three business days for background checks before the sale of guns and the minimum age of 21 to purchase handguns from any type of dealer. PTA has another position that would increase gun safety: prohibit the sale of more than one handgun a month to any individual. Perhaps you would consider strengthening HB 1238 with a provision limiting the number of guns that can be purchased at gun shows.</p> <p>PTA believes that our state's leaders must acknowledge and address the ease of access to firearms. We must make every attempt to reduce violence, especially those incidents that involve firearms. Practical gun safety and violence prevention legislation will protect not just our children, but all Coloradans.</p>

<p>Robert Glenn Against Weld County GOP</p>	<p>Representatives,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to House Bill 25-1238, a proposal that places significant new regulations on gun show promoters and vendors. While I understand the intent behind this legislation may be to enhance public safety, I firmly believe it represents an unnecessary burden on law-abiding citizens, imposes impractical requirements, and fails to address the root causes of gun-related issues in our state. I respectfully urge you to reconsider this bill for the following reasons.</p> <p>First, this bill unfairly targets responsible gun owners and vendors who already comply with existing state and federal laws. Requiring promoters to submit detailed security plans to local law enforcement and maintain a minimum of \$1 million in liability insurance adds a substantial financial and administrative burden. Many gun shows in Colorado are small, community-driven events, often organized by individuals or groups who lack the resources to meet such costly mandates. This could effectively eliminate these events, reducing opportunities for lawful commerce and the exercise of Second Amendment rights, without clear evidence that these measures would prevent crime.</p> <p>Second, the requirement for promoters to enforce the state’s 3-day waiting period is redundant and misplaced. Waiting periods are already enforced at the point of sale by licensed dealers, who conduct background checks through the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Shifting this responsibility onto promoters—who are not typically involved in the transaction process—creates confusion and unnecessary overlap. It also assumes promoters have the capacity to monitor every sale, which is impractical given the scale and nature of gun shows.</p> <p>Third, restricting entry to individuals under 21 unless accompanied by a guardian dismisses the rights and maturity of young adults aged 18 to 20. These individuals can legally own firearms in Colorado and often attend gun shows to learn about responsible ownership, safety, and self-defense. Barring their independent access infantilizes them and limits their ability to engage in lawful activities, all without evidence that this age group poses a unique risk at gun shows.</p> <p>Furthermore, the mandates for vendors—such as keeping firearms unloaded and secured, displaying licenses, and providing storage information—pile on regulations that duplicate existing practices. Federal law already requires vendors to hold a Federal Firearms License (FFL), and most reputable vendors already secure their displays and educate buyers as a matter of course. Penalizing non-compliance with escalating misdemeanors and potential bans risks punishing minor oversights rather than intentional wrongdoing, disproportionately impacting small businesses and hobbyists.</p> <p>Finally, I question the effectiveness of this bill in achieving its presumed goal of reducing gun violence. Criminals intent on breaking the law do not typically acquire firearms through regulated gun shows, where background checks are mandatory. Instead, this legislation burdens law-abiding citizens while doing little to address illegal firearm trafficking or the underlying social issues driving violence. If safety is</p>
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	<p>the priority, resources would be better directed toward enforcing existing laws and supporting community-based prevention efforts.</p> <p>In conclusion, HB25-1238 represents an overreach that infringes on individual freedoms, stifles lawful commerce, and imposes impractical requirements without a clear benefit to public safety. I urge you to vote against this bill and instead focus on solutions that respect the rights of Coloradans while addressing the true causes of crime. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
<p>mark kaiser Against themselves</p>	<p>Criminals don't obey laws. This proposal only adds another layer of control that won't stop violence by guns.</p> <p>This bill is little more than a solution looking for a problem that is currently non-existent.</p> <p>NO on HB25-1238</p> <p>Thank you!!</p>
<p>mark kaiser Against themselves</p>	<p>Criminals don't obey laws. This proposal only adds another layer of control that won't stop violence by guns.</p> <p>This bill is little more than a solution looking for a problem that is currently non-existent.</p> <p>NO on HB25-1238</p> <p>Thank you!!</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: House State Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee</p> <p>RE: HB25-1238 Gun Show Requirements 2-24-25</p> <p>Sponsors: Joseph, Camacho, Kipp</p> <p>FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent</p> <p>VOTE: NO</p> <p>With every violation of the 2nd amendment that this body puts forth, I am always surprised.</p> <p>You are over 480 bills in one month, most made by outsiders to our state. You have continuously jabbed at the 2nd Amendment, like 1000 cuts! If you cannot outright violate</p> <p>the 2nd amendment, you are creating backdoors, gateways to undercutting a piece here,</p> <p>and a piece there. All of it undermines the fact, that we already have too many, governmental</p> <p>over reaching bills, laws, statutes. You violate the constitution daily with your bills.</p>

	<p>These all need to be legally challenged. But you already know this. This will cost the taxpayers more money, but then you already know this as well. Our state is rapidly turning into a Gulag and marxist haven. The innocent remain unprotected, and the guilty, and criminals have a leg up at every stand. I urge you to Stop this conscious attack on our rights in the 2nd amendment. All the things you are proposing are already covered. We are not advocating lawlessness. We are advocating the Constitution.</p>
<p>Matthew Koziolk Against themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am submitting testimony against this bill as it will over regulate gun shows, which are an integral part of Colorado's culture and history, to the point where they will become either too expensive or just stop having the in this state. You are turning this state into an over regulated mess, and at the behest of a select few out of state funded nonprofit groups. Violent crime is at a 50 year low and being irrationally afraid of guns is not a good reason to continue restricting lawful gun ownership, gun shows, and gun culture. This state is being colonized by special interests from others states. please stop it.</p> <p>Matthew Koziolk</p>
<p>Leif Sigstedt Against themselves</p>	<p>Please join me in opposition of this nonsense bill that only serves to hurt the Colorado firearms industry and our countless mom and pop vendors. This is designed only as red tape intended to make it difficult for anyone to host a gun show in Colorado. The requirements are onerous and will cost a whole lot of money and all for very little if any benefit. We don't need more gun laws that attack our fundamental freedoms and the people that facilitate them. This is un-American and also not in keeping with our state's historical traditions. Please throw this bill into the garbage where it belongs.</p>
<p>Ann Macomber Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill would require every table at a gun show to have a federally and state-licensed firearms seller present. This provision of the bill could cripple gun shows in Colorado where all kinds of business owners, not just firearms retailers, set up tables to do business or promote their products and services. It also violates the First Amendment by putting restrictions on our ability, and that of similar entities, to educate voters at gun shows on Second Amendment issues in the state of Colorado.</p> <p>It's one more cumbersome licensing requirement that will undermine our freedoms as entrepreneurs selling firearms. Your intentions in this requirement are nothing less than an anti-guns agenda which is unconstitutional. There is no evidence that this measure will deter gun violence. We have our 2nd amendment for a reason... to counteract government's tyranny and interferences.</p>
<p>David Fraker</p>	<p>Honorable Members of the Colorado State House of Representatives,</p>

<p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I am honored to appear before you today to express my opposition to HB-1238. This bill, if enacted, would have significant and far-reaching consequences for our community, and I believe it is my duty to voice my concerns on behalf of the many citizens who share them.</p> <p>Firstly, HB-1238 would impose undue restrictions on local businesses, hampering their ability to operate effectively and stifling economic growth. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, providing jobs and fostering innovation. Imposing unnecessary regulations would create barriers to their success and undermine the entrepreneurial spirit that drives our state forward.</p> <p>Secondly, the proposed legislation would place an additional financial burden on taxpayers. The implementation and enforcement of HB-1238 would require substantial funding, diverting resources away from essential public services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. At a time when many Coloradans are already facing economic hardships, it is imperative that we prioritize responsible spending and fiscal prudence.</p> <p>Furthermore, HB-1238 fails to address the root causes of the issues it seeks to remedy. Instead of imposing restrictive measures, we should focus on collaborative solutions that engage stakeholders from all sectors. By fostering dialogue and cooperation, we can develop more effective and sustainable approaches that benefit everyone involved.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB-1238 and the adverse effects it would have on our community. Let us work together to find better solutions that promote growth, protect our citizens, and uphold the values that make Colorado a great state.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, David L Fraker</p>
<p>Richard Hus Against themselves</p>	<p>House Representatives Sean Camacho and Junie Joseph, and Senator Cathy Kipp,</p> <p>I'm writing to you today about how your bill could impact our rights and freedoms here in Colorado: House Bill 25-1238, currently under consideration in the 2025 legislative session. Your bill imposes burdensome and impractical regulations on gun shows, law-abiding citizens, small businesses, and our Second Amendment rights. This is a complete overreach of government.</p>

	<p>HB 25-1238 requires gun show promoters to submit detailed security plans to local law enforcement, bans unaccompanied individuals under 21 from attending, and enforces strict vendor certification rules—rules that duplicate existing federal and state laws. Violators face harsh penalties, including misdemeanor charges and, for promoters, a five-year ban from their livelihood after a second offense. These measures don't just add red tape; they unfairly target a community already complying with rigorous background check requirements.</p> <p>Vendors are already required to conduct background checks for every firearm transfer, just like any licensed dealer. This bill doesn't enhance safety—it will hurt local economies, and limit Coloradans' access to their constitutional rights. This is driven more by politics than by data as it piles on unnecessary hurdles that could shutter these events. I have no doubt that is your objective.</p> <p>Studies consistently show that less than 1% of firearms used in crimes are traced to gun shows. Criminals don't line up for background checks—they operate in the shadows. Meanwhile, HB 25-1238 punishes the law-abiding hunters, collectors, and responsible enthusiasts who rely on these events.</p> <p>House Representatives vote NO on HB 25-1238. Defend our freedoms, support small businesses, and stand up for common-sense policies that actually address crime. You all took an oath to uphold the Constitution of Colorado and the Constitution of the United States.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Richard Hus</p> <p>Littleton, CO (720) 273-9411</p>
<p>Adam Donahue Against himself</p>	<p>My name is Adam Donahue, Concerned Citizen from Centennial.</p> <p>Do not support this bill! This bill is Unconstitutional! This bill is making it harder and harder to just purchase byarms and accessories. Do not support this bill! Stop assaulting our rights.</p>

	Adam Donahue Centennial
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Testimony in opposition to: HB25-1238, Requirements for Gun Shows
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado

Thank you, Chair and Committee

My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado an NRA-affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety.

I am a former U.S. Army Officer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration. While we are sure that the sponsors of this bill are only interested in promoting public safety, the practical effect of the proposal will be to kill gun shows in Colorado and further restrict the opportunities for citizens of the state to exercise their natural right to self-defense against crime, tyranny, terrorism, and genocide. There are already laws in place to regulate the sale of firearms by private citizens at gun shows. Current law requires that every prospective buyer undergo a background check and a three-day waiting period, before exercising a natural right recognized by the US and Colorado Constitutions. This proposal is unnecessary and harmful.

The exclusion of private citizens from participating in the sales of firearms at gun shows is not only an affront to the US and Colorado Constitutions, it will destroy the shows, themselves. Fewer vendors will mean lower income from table rental for show promoters, not to mention the reduction in attendance that will certainly accompany this unnecessary measure. In addition, the administrative burden on gun show promoters will further disincentivize individuals from organizing shows.

Another practical effect of this bill will be that no "private" gun sales will occur in the public venue of gun shows. More sales will be conducted in garages and living rooms away from the scrutiny of law enforcement, and anti-Second Amendment activists. Instead of the ability to conduct a background check a few yards away at a gun show, prospective sellers and buyers will have to make a trip to a brick and mortar store of a licensed dealer to legally complete a transaction. The inconvenience inherent in this situation will make it more likely that the background check will not take place, defeating one of the supposed cornerstone objectives of gun control, keeping firearms out of the hands of persons who are not supposed to have them.

The restriction on persons aged 18-20 attending gun shows without an "adult" present is shocking, given that the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that 18 year-olds, who can vote, serve in the military, sign contracts, and be tried as adults, are citizens of the US, who may not be denied their rights recognized under the Second Amendment. Imagine an honorably discharged 20-year-old disabled veteran having to ask "Daddy" to

take him or her to a gun show, so he or she can patronize vendors who do not sell firearms.

We urge a "No" vote on this bill.

Thank you.

Robert Edmiston
Volunteer Lobbyist
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

2/23/25

To the State Affairs Committee

Please vote yes on HB25-1238 because our expectations for gun show promoters to follow the law should be equal to if not greater than our expectations for marijuana shops and liquor stores. As it is, such shows come across as just another fun showcase for selling and buying goods. But weapons aren't like other kinds of goods, and gun show promoters aren't like other purveyors. Given their product, more stringent oversight makes sense.

Requiring promoters to file safety plans, carry sufficient insurance, and install security measures should be a given considering the harm their products can cause in the wrong hands. Encouraging promoters to follow the law and enact basic guardrails isn't particularly onerous considering the products they sell.

Best regards,
Lucy Pfeffer

Senators and Representatives

I strongly urge you to vote against HB25-1238. This bill places unnecessary burdens on all individuals involved in or attending gun shows. It is a veiled attempt to further weaken the Constitutional rights of Colorado citizens.

Gary Travis

Evergreen, Colorado

Dear Distinguished Members of the House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee,

RE: HB25-1238, Gun Show Requirements

I respectfully ask you to support this important bill that strengthens the requirements for those who operate gun shows in Colorado and those who sell and buy guns there.

Passage of this bill will require a gun show promoter to prepare a security plan and submit the security plan to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the gun show.

The bill places certain requirements on a gun show promoter, including requiring the promoter to:

- 1) Have liability insurance for the gun show.
- 2) Implement security measures at the gun show (noted above).
- 3) Prohibit persons under 21 years of age from entering the gun show unless the person is accompanied by a parent, grandparent, or guardian.
- 4) For each customer who leaves with a purchased firearm, verify that each firearm sold at a gun show is delivered in compliance with the required the 3-day waiting period.
- 5) Post certain notices at the gun show.

Other facts for your consideration:

- Given Colorado's new gun dealer licensing requirements, which help protect against illegal gun sales and gun thefts, gun shows—which are often a destination for those seeking to purchase firearms without a background check—should have similar safeguards in place.
- In the Columbine High School shooting, the shooters obtained 3 of their 4 guns from a friend who straw-purchased them at a gun show from unlicensed sellers.

A YES vote for **HB25-1238** is a positive step to strengthen the requirements for gun show operators, and those who sell and buy guns at these shows.

Thank you for taking the time to review, support and pass **HB25-1238**.

Sincerely,
Thomas Wilson
Aurora