

To: Members of the Colorado House Business Affairs & Labor Committee
From: Agustin Cabrera, Giffords State Legislative Manager
Subject: Oppose HB25-1055
Date: February 6, 2025

Submitted via email

My name is Agustin Cabrera and I am a State Legislative Manager with Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. I write to you today urging the opposition of HB25-1055, a bill that would repeal vital regulations on gun dealers in Colorado—regulations that keep communities safe and ensure these industry members are acting responsibly and with accountability.

Although nearly all firearms in the United States are originally sold by licensed gun dealers, these dealers operate with minimal federal oversight. This lack of oversight, exacerbated by inadequate funding and gun lobby-backed legislation, too often allows corrupt or irresponsible gun dealers to endanger public safety without any accountability or consequences. This cannot be allowed to take place in Colorado, which was why legislators worked last year to implement these critical regulations to ensure firearm dealers act with the community's good and safety in mind.

Without these regulations, licensed gun dealers will be subject to inadequate levels of oversight to ensure safe and best practices

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is the federal agency responsible for regulating and conducting inspections of licensed gun dealers and ensuring compliance with federal law. However, for decades, ATF has been understaffed and underfunded, limiting its availability to enforce compliance and enabling corrupt dealers to go undetected and unpunished. In 2022, just 816 investigators were responsible for inspecting more than 50,000 federally licensed dealers nationwide.¹ Although the ATF aims to inspect FFLs every three years, in 2023 just 7% of all dealers were inspected.²

Gun Dealer regulation is an important driver of industry behavior

Stronger oversight of firearms dealers is directly linked to lower rates of gun crimes. In just one notable example, when one Milwaukee dealer voluntarily changed their sales practices—namely by halting the sales of certain low-quality, inexpensive handguns—there was a subsequent decrease in the use of such weapons across the city of Milwaukee. This included a 73%

¹ "Fact Sheet – Facts and Figures for Fiscal Year 2022," Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, January 2023, <https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/fact-sheet/fact-sheet-facts-and-figures-fiscal-year-2022>.

² Based on calculations made by Giffords Law Center. "Firearm Compliance Inspection Results," Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, last accessed September 24, 2024, <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/firearms-compliance-inspection-results>.

decrease in crime guns recently sold by this dealer in the city, and a 44% decrease in the flow of newly trafficked guns recovered in the city.³

Research has consistently shown that:

- States that supplement federal oversight **stronger record keeping and inspection** requirements have seen decreases in violent crime, with the most successful states seeing a 36% decrease in their overall homicide rate.⁴
- Stronger dealer record-keeping and licensing laws correlate with **fewer crime guns trafficked across state lines**.⁵
- Noncompliant gun dealers **double the surrounding area's risk of gun homicide**.⁶

Colorado's existing regulations were enacted to ensure that firearm dealers operate responsibly and do not contribute to illegal gun trafficking or violence. While it is too early to fully measure their impact, we know from national research that such laws are essential to reducing gun violence. Repealing these protections before they have a chance to fully take effect would not only undermine public safety but also undo the efforts of those who worked to establish these critical safeguards." Given this, we respectfully ask that you oppose HB25-1055. Repealing these vital protections will only endanger Colorado communities and make it more difficult to ensure dealers act and work responsibly.

Thank you,

Agustin Cabrera

Agustin Cabrera

State Legislative Manager | He/Him

c: (806) 335-5819

[giffords.org](https://www.giffords.org) | [@GIFFORDS_org](https://www.instagram.com/GIFFORDS_org)

GIFFORDS

ABOUT GIFFORDS

Giffords is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Giffords shifts culture, changes policies, and challenges injustice, inspiring Americans across the country to fight gun violence.

³ Daniel W. Webster, et al., "Effects of a Gun Dealer's Change in Sales Practices on the Supply of Guns to Criminals," *Journal of Urban Health* 83, (2006): 778-787.

⁴ Nathan Irvin, et al., "Evaluating the Effect of State Regulation of Federally Licensed Firearm Dealers on Firearm Homicide," *American Journal of Public Health* 104, no. 8 (2014): 1384-1386.

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⁶ Richard Stansfield, et al., "Licensed firearm dealers, legal compliance, and local homicide: A case study," *Criminology & Public Policy* 22, no. 2 (2023): 323-345.

Dear Distinguished Members of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee,

RE: HB25-1055 Repeal the Firearm Dealer State Permit Law

At the risk of over communicating with you, I must again restate how important it is for you to vote NO on this repeal. The Dealer State Permit bill passed into law last year is a very important law that helps enforce all Colorado gun safety laws. Repealing this law will keep Coloradans safe.

If gun dealers are not following Colorado laws (such as the high-capacity magazine limit), the dealer could lose their state permit, and no longer be able to operate in Colorado.

We cannot afford to not take a step backwards in preventing gun violence in our state. Please vote NO on this repeal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Wilson

Aurora

HB25-1055 REPEAL FIREARM DEALER REQUIS. & STATE PERMIT

Testimony of Keith Emerson, February 27, 2025

My name is Keith Emerson. I'm retired and a citizen of Denver.

HB25-1055 repeals the state firearm dealer permit requirements, inspections, etc. that duplicate existing Federal requirements. The fiscal note points out that this bill will save the state over \$2.8 million dollars a year!

In committee testimony on last year's House Bill 24-1353, anti-gun groups claimed that Federal inspections were lacking and that Colorado needed to set up a duplicate system. This testimony was countered by a number of firearm dealers who testified that they had been inspected according to Federal regulations and that they had not heard of any other dealers that had not been properly inspected.

Under last year's bill any failings, found in unannounced inspections and no matter how small, would result in a warning and then a 3 year suspension of the Colorado (but not Federal) license. Operating without a State permit would result in a fine of \$250,000. Examples of minor and typically accidental acts that could get you suspended include failing to provide a locking device, not having the right Colorado signage posted at your business, or doing a transfer outside of posted business hours. During testimony on the bill an anti-firearm person talked about going around to gun shops seeing if she could find something she could then report. If you go back and look at the 2024 bill the requirements are excessive, unnecessary here they go beyond just duplicating Federal regulations.

All sorts of burdens were put on employees as well.

There was an additional bill, SB24-003, to fund the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to hire the necessary staff to become the "policemen" for this new Colorado inspection system.

Last year's HB24-1353 was a multi-million dollar attempt to set up enough trip wires to drive many, mostly small, shops out of business. Please pass HB25-1055 and reverse this madness while saving Colorado millions of dollars.

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**Testimony in Support of: HB25-1055 Repeal Firearm Dealer Requirements and
State Permit
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 support of the measure under consideration.

We are hearing from many firearms dealers in Colorado that the regulatory burdens placed upon them by legislation over the past few years have made it all but impossible for many of them to continue to serve the citizens of the state by providing a means to acquire and maintain arms protected by the US and Colorado Constitutions. This bill would go a long way toward lifting those onerous restrictions and restoring the prospects of dealers for continued operations in the state.

We urge a "Yes" vote on this bill.

Thank you.

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

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I implore you to vote NO on this repeal. The Dealer State Permit bill passed into law last year is a very important law that helps enforce all Colorado gun safety laws.

If gun dealers are not following Colorado laws (such as the high-capacity magazine limit), the dealer could lose their state permit, and no longer be able to operate in Colorado.

We cannot afford to not take a step backwards in preventing gun violence in our state. Please vote NO on this repeal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Wilson

Aurora

House Business Affairs & Labor

02/27/2025 01:30 PM

HB25-1055 Repeal Firearm Dealer Requirements & State Permit

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Aaron Mercer For themselves	<p>Good day. As a citizen of Colorado and a VERY SMALL, home based FFL, this bill would save my business. As it stands now with this bill in place, the added burden, fees, etc. Would cause me to pay more in licenses and fees than what I would make. If this bill is not approved (to repeal the the original bill) will likely cause me to have to surrender my FFL and close my business, which I have been operating for 10 years now. I am asking for everyone to please support this bill and support small Colorado businesses. Thank you for your time and I hope you vote YES and support this bill.</p>
Sarah Puhr Against themselves	<p>Good afternoon, esteemed members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Sarah Puhr, and I am a resident of Lafayette, Colorado. I am here today to voice my opposition to HB25-1055. As a community member, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of this bill on our public safety.</p> <p>The ATF is the agency responsible for regulating and conducting inspections of licensed gun dealers. With the new administration's approach to defunding federal agencies such as the ATF, it's even more imperative now that states like Colorado close the regulatory gaps in overseeing firearm dealers. Effective state-level dealer licensing will become increasingly important in the coming years.</p> <p>In-state gun trafficking is 64% lower in places with strong gun dealer regulations and oversight. This demonstrates the effectiveness of robust regulations in reducing illegal gun activities. There are license or permit requirements for many basic goods and services, so it only makes sense that gun dealers should be subject to similar regulations to ensure public safety.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to vote against HB25-1055 to maintain the safety and security of our communities. Thank you for your time.</p>
Dawn Pare Against themselves	<p>Good afternoon, members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Dawn Pare, and I am a parent and former educator. I am here today to express my strong opposition to HB25-1055. As a parent, my primary concern is the safety and well-being of my family and community.</p> <p>With the new federal administration expected to reduce inspections and discipline of irresponsible gun dealers significantly, the importance of effective state-level dealer licensing will grow in the coming years. The ATF is responsible for regulating and</p>

	<p>conducting inspections of licensed gun dealers, but with the new administration's approach to defunding federal agencies like the ATF, it's even more imperative that states like Colorado close the regulatory gaps in overseeing firearm dealers.</p> <p>In-state gun trafficking is 64% lower in places with strong gun dealer regulations and oversight. This statistic alone highlights the critical need for maintaining and strengthening our state-level regulations. There are license or permit requirements for many basic goods and services—from installing a pool in your backyard to selling liquor to offering haircuts and beauty services. It only stands to reason that gun dealers should be subject to some simple regulations to ensure public safety.</p> <p>I urge you to reject HB25-1055 to protect our communities and ensure that firearm dealers are held to appropriate standards. Thank you.</p>
<p>Frank Manthei For themselves</p>	<p>I am an FFL holder and only do transfers. I do not make more than about \$150.00 per year. The bill HB24-1353 would put me out of business. It is a totally unnecessary bill as an FFL holder I am subject to all that the bill endorses. Next what is the cost to the taxpayers? This is another boondoggle just like the reintroduction of the wolves and is a waste of taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>I believe the sponsors of HB24-1353 should read the constitution and I would be happy to provide them a copy.</p> <p>We need to put a halt to the indiscriminate spending that these types of legislation purpose.</p> <p>Thank You</p>
<p>Willa Cohen Against Students Demand Action</p>	<p>My name is Willa Cohen and I am a volunteer for East Students Demand Action. In regards to my own safety and the safety of my fellow coloradans, I urge you to vote against house bill 1055 and protect your valued constituents. It was this time last year when I was in this very building testifying on behalf of the regulations that I am now here to protect. Honestly, it makes me upset that I am here for the very same reason after so little time. There is no reason why I should need to justify the need for gun dealer permitting, AGAIN. However, I will remind you that only 5% of gun dealers are responsible for 90% of recovered criminal guns, and the code of conduct required for the permit takes measures to ensure guns are not sold illegally. I will remind you that in-state gun trafficking is 64% lower in places with stronger gun dealer oversight. I will remind you that without this existing law, gun dealers are not required to adhere to safe business practices, or to require employee background checks. This is an unacceptable reality. There are no scenarios when the requirements of this law, such as not requiring background checks on employees of gun dealers has adverse effects. The desire to repeal these requirements comes from a place of anger at the gun violence prevention movement, and will only result in an increase in criminal guns in the state of Colorado. Although I am disappointed in the reality that I still need to defend this law, I will continue to remind you of the value of firearm dealer permitting until it is clear that this common sense gun legislation is here to stay. Having said this, I urge you to consider the lives these permits and requirements save, and vote no on HB25-1055.</p>

<p>Melissa Pick Against themselves</p>	<p>Representatives, I am writing to ask you to please oppose the HB25-1055 Repeal the Firearm Dealer State Permit Law bill. The original Firearm Dealer State Permit law provides some simple requirements in an otherwise unregulated industry of a dangerous object. There's no other industry that goes as unregulated as guns, and no other industry that causes so many human deaths, injury, and trauma. My personal story: I have lost several close friends to both suicide and murder by gun. There is hardly a day that I don't think about them, even 9 years later. One was a child - I can't believe I can't go to the little one's birthday anymore, watching presents being opened, cake eaten, kids running around the living room with joy. So I educated myself about the firearm industry, and I realize that the lack of regulation has allowed more and more dangerous guns and ammunition to be manufactured, shipped, and sold. There are regulations and permits required for the automotive sector, for product sales, for almost every step in the medical healthcare and pharmaceutical industry, for food service, for liquor licenses, and more - and all of the industries are successful, huge money makers. There is no tie between regulations and lowered income or ability to do business. Yet, firearms dealers claim regulations would hurt their business, while illegal practice increase. There are no Federal laws requiring firearms dealers and their employees to undergo training in practices intended to deter gun trafficking and illegal use of firearms, maintain secure features at gun shops, or conduct background checks on employees. HB25-1055 would repeal the code of conduct for firearms dealers and their employees, as well as oversight and enforcement that were established by the state law passed in 2024, putting Colorado back in place of serious risk of increased gun violence.</p>
<p>PAUL PUHR Against themselves</p>	<p>Committee Members:</p> <p>I am taking my time today to let you that I am stringly opposed to this bill. I think that we need more oversight here instead of less. With the current dismantling of federal oversight, it is more important than ever that states like Colorado take the lead at the state level to strengthen oversight of firearms dealers in our state.</p> <p>Please reject this bill to increase the safety of Colorado Communities and ensure that firearms dealers are held responsible for their actions.</p> <p>Respectfully, Paul M Puhr</p>
<p>Robert Edmiston For The Firearms Coalition of Colorado</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of: HB25-1055 Repeal Firearm Dealer Requirements and State Permit</p> <p>The Firearms Coalition of Colorado</p>

	<p>Thank you, Chair and Committee</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I am a former U.S. Army Officer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have a Master’s Degree in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the measure under consideration.</p> <p>We are hearing from many firearms dealers in Colorado that the regulatory burdens placed upon them by legislation over the past few years have made it all but impossible for many of them to continue to serve the citizens of the state by providing a means to acquire and maintain arms protected by the US and Colorado Constitutions. This bill would go a long way toward lifting those onerous restrictions and restoring the prospects of dealers for continued operations in the state.</p> <p>We urge a “Yes” vote on this bill.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Robert Edmiston Volunteer Lobbyist The Firearms Coalition of Colorado PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454</p>
<p>Meneka Hecox Against Students Demand Action</p>	<p>Good afternoon, chair and member of the committee.. My name is Meneka Hecox, I am a 17 year old student at East High School. This will be the 7th testimony that I wrote in regards to gun legislation during my highschool career. And the fight still remains.</p> <p>Nearly six out ten gun deaths in the US are suicide, that is parallel to 71 deaths a day. This is not even accounting for the attempts, injuries, and homicides. (everytown)</p> <p>Gun suicides happen because someone got hold of a deadly weapon that had enough power to kill. This number will increase if the dealers are uneducated on the danger that these weapons hold. By ensuring that gun dealers obtain minimal training you are saving lives. If dealers have the ability to understand how and who to sell guns to they can ensure that unstable young adults are not getting hold of</p>

	<p>such deadly weapons. However without this training the 71s will turn to 100s, then to thousands, the list goes on.</p> <p>“Nearly 1 in 3 families with children have at least one gun in the house.” (Nationwide Children's hospital)</p> <p>If gun dealers are not taught about safe storage, then gun owners will not know how to keep their weapons out of the hands of these innocent children. However, if you pass this bill the numbers of curious adolescents who innocently grab hold of weapons powerful enough to kill will sky rockets. With the right training gun dealers can save lives. .</p> <p>You passed an incredible law last year to potentially save the lives of countless students struggling with mental health. If you pass this bill how many more Luis Garcia cases will there be? How many more Austin Lyles will it take? And how many more DPS deans must be sacrificed?</p> <p>So, please give last year's bill a chance to work!</p>
<p>Jeany Rush For themselves</p>	<p>TO: House Committee on Business Affairs & Labor</p> <p>RE: HB25-1055 Repealing Requirements HB24-1353 Dealers of Firearms</p> <p>Sponsor: Brooks</p> <p>FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent 2-17-25</p> <p>VOTE: YES</p> <p>I am supporting this bill for many reasons, but first and foremost, this bill allows reason and the Constitution back into the room in relation to firearms.</p> <p>Secondly, it demonstrates how the STATE was over reaching on permits, business rules, regulations, and violations into the private/commerce sector.</p> <p>The State should not have the additional rights to impose rules/laws into business hours, and employee vetting, training, beyond those the Federal Laws cover for the firearms industry.</p> <p>The old bill goes too far into private lives which should not be the intent, or job of any state.</p> <p>The real tragedy is that the firearms dealers are law abiding business owners, already complying with federal laws regarding this industry. They are unfairly, and unequally being discriminated against, beyond the rights of existing law.</p> <p>While I do not advocate the abuse of the Safety Clause, which this body does entirely too much, in this case I welcome it, because it would also save many businesses, who may be lost should this not be passed.</p>
<p>Skye Lewis Against themselves</p>	<p>Please do not repeal HB25-1055. I would like to ensure that people working with and around weapons that are frequently used to hurt other humans are checked to ensure public safety. It does not make any sense to put the public in further danger. Please keep us safe and do not take away these protections.</p>

2/23/25

To the House Business and Affairs Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I am a constituent in Denver, and I ask you to please vote no on HB25-1055 which would repeal gun dealer permit requirements.

As a teacher in Denver Public Schools, I always started the year with an art project developed around the rights and responsibilities my fifth graders had in the classroom. As they created their projects, we discussed how rights and responsibilities are really two sides of the same coin.

The same is true in our grown-up world and can certainly be applied to gun dealer permitting requirements. If gun dealers have the right to sell arms, they inherently have a responsibility to follow laws and protect their communities from guns ending up in the wrong hands. Unfortunately, some people choose to do otherwise in which case there should be consequences.

As I saw with my students, there are always a few individuals who want their rights but overlook the responsibilities that come with those rights. We can hope that people do the right thing out of the goodness of their heart or at least some kind of communal awareness, but experience disappoints. That's why we create parameters in the classroom and in our communities.

If some promoters choose to ignore the law and neglect to enact basic safety standards then it's the legislature's job to set parameters. Those within the gun dealer permit law aren't particularly onerous considering the products being sold.

Please vote no on HB25-1055 and allow a fair law to do its job.

Best regards,
Lucy Pfeffer

Senators and Representatives

I strongly urge you to vote for HB25-1055 which repeals a previous law that places redundant and unnecessary restrictions on gun dealers and hurts the Colorado economy.

Gary Travis

Evergreen, Colorado

Good Day,

My name is Langford Jordan, I work at Centennial Gun Club in Centennial, CO. I am the Operations Manager, ATF Compliance Officer and a Responsible Person on our Federal licenses. I am also a member of the working group for the Firearms Dealer Division Rulemaking created due to the passage of HB24-1353.

The requirements of HB24-1353 are onerous to both the firearms dealers and to the State of Colorado. It is not a well-crafted piece of legislation. Getting through the rule making has been a laborious process. The language in the bill is unclear, over-reaching and poorly thought out. It smacks of a bill that was written based on emotion and a rudimentary understanding of the legislative and Rule Making processes. It needs to be repealed and recrafted if this body truly believes it to be "...necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety..."

As early as November 1, 2024 the Firearms Dealer Division sent an email out to the working group from their email account (dor_led-state.co.us@shared1.ccsend.com) stating in part;

"To give the industry more time to discuss these rules, the Division has made changes to its rulemaking process.

The Division will adopt emergency rules to satisfy the General Assembly's charge laid out in House Bill 24-1353 by February 1, 2025."

It was not the "industry" alone struggling with the HB24-1353 it was also the Dept. of Revenue folks leading the rule making process. This speaks directly to the poor craftsmanship of the legislation.

There are components of this bill that are exceedingly unclear on how they are to be executed; the finger-printing-how does it get done, will the State get buy in from the FBI, who exactly is going to be required to be finger-printed; :: what's the examination going to look like? Many of the requirements in HB24-1353 for the test are highly subjective. The rule making for this section of the bill has not even begun and based on the previous sessions I suspect it will be very difficult. These are just two examples of the lack of clarity.

HB24-1353 is not a bill that promotes public peace, health or safety, it will promote confusion, discord and excessive angst for both the state employees trying to execute this bill and the dealers trying to comply with the bill. HB24-1353 needs to be repealed.

Given the current political climate in the State of Colorado, the political makeup of this state legislative body, and the makeup of this committee I understand there is little hope HB25-1055 will even make it out of this committee. We seem to be incapable of behaving in any way outside the scope of our chosen "tribes." And that is unfortunate-you all have an opportunity to move this bill, HB25-1055, along. Repeal HB24-1353 then re-craft it into a sensible, manageable bill for both the state and the dealers if you truly believe it is essential for the preservation of the public peace.

Regardless of what many of you think- firearms dealers are highly committed to promoting public safety- daily we do the things in this bill (and beyond) not only because of laws and regulations but also- and most importantly- because it is the right and proper thing to do. God Bless you and may you all be guided to do the right thing , move HB25-1055 forward and convince your colleagues to repeal HB24-1353. Thank you!

