

To the Colorado Legislature:

My submission is in support of SB21-256, Local Regulation of Firearms

I have lived in South Boulder less than two miles from the Table Mesa King Soopers for over three decades. I have always felt safe in my neighborhood and in King Soopers. Even as I mourned fatalities and injuries as the toll mounted from previous shootings in places like Parkland, Charleston, Sandy Hook, El Paso etc., mass shootings still seemed far away. On March 22, my husband was just entering King Soopers when he heard shots inside. Thank God he was able to leave quickly and safely, but I still experienced many disturbed nights and many unfocused days in the aftermath. This has been a deep personal trauma, I still am consumed by sadness when passing the memorial fence, and I ache for the families of those killed. I both long for and dread the re-opening of King Soopers.

That sense of safety we feel in our own familiar neighborhoods and local places of business or worship or learning was an illusion for me and must be acknowledged to be an illusion for all Americans. Some Americans believe that arming themselves in the name of personal safety and to protect their loved ones is the right response to threats, real and perceived. While I agree that Americans cannot and should not be completely prohibited from gun ownership, I believe that the evidence shows that gun ownership does not lead to increased safety. In fact, lower rates of gun violence are observed to be associated with lower gun ownership rates in communities that have enacted stronger gun regulations.

As you know, in 2018, the City Council of Boulder unanimously approved a local ordinance to ban the sale and possession of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines and bump-stock devices. This ban was overturned in March 2021 due to the State's preemption law. I applauded the passage of this ordinance because I understood that the evidence shows that communities with stronger gun laws experience lower rates of gun violence. I saw, but did not agree with, the protests that followed by a segment of gun owners who felt their rights were infringed. As I said earlier, I do not believe that gun ownership per se should be banned. However, the types of weapons addressed by Boulder's ban are clearly well beyond the class of the tools that hunters or rural farmers require, and in my opinion go far beyond what a reasonable person would believe is needed for protecting the safety of their person and their loved ones. What these weapons have been shown to be highly effective at doing, from Sandy Hook to Las Vegas to Aurora to Boulder and many other examples, is facilitating the rapid killing of innocent human beings.

I wish that local communities like Boulder did not need to take the step of passing their own assault weapons ordinances. But if it takes the local political will of cities like Boulder or entities like the University of Colorado to begin chipping away at gun violence, then to me it is heavy-handed for the State of Colorado to stand in the way. The members of Boulder's City Council were elected by citizens like me. While the March 22 shooting might have happened even if the City's ordinance had not been overturned, Boulder's ban was still a step in the right direction. Just as I have the right to ban assault weapons and other guns from my home, my community of Boulder should have the right to try to keep its citizens safe in the manner that we choose.

Thank you for considering my views.

Frances Boler
1415 Blue Sage Ct
Boulder, CO 80305

May 22, 2021

RE: SB21-256. Local Regulation of Firearms.

To the Committee Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs,

My name is Alyssa Finer and I am a resident of Boulder, Colorado for twenty years. I love Boulder and I was devastated by the recent mass shooting at the Kings Soopers in South Boulder. In fact, I have been devastated by the mass killings happening around our country. For forty years since I was in high school, I have been questioning why it is so hard to have gun safety policies and the prospect of SB21-256 gives me so much hope. Our local officials who live in the community know best how to serve our needs. They are the ones who know there are people in the community who want a say in where guns should be allowed, who support laws to prevent the type of weapon used to kill ten people in our community. As a mother, I want my son, his friends, all our children to feel safe. As a local librarian, I want the people coming in and participating in programs and story times to know that our local community has the power to enact laws to make us all feel safer.

Please support the passage of SB21-256 and help our community heal by knowing that our local representatives will have the ability to pass laws to protect us.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Finer
2290 Norwood Avenue,
Boulder, CO 80304

May 22, 2021

RE: SB21-256. Local Regulation of Firearms.

To the Committee Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs,

My name is Alyssa Finer and I am a resident of Boulder, Colorado for twenty years. I love Boulder and I was devastated by the recent mass shooting at the Kings Soopers in South Boulder. In fact, I have been devastated by the mass killings happening around our country. For forty years since I was in high school, I have been questioning why it is so hard to have gun safety policies and the prospect of SB21-256 gives me so much hope. Our local officials who live in the community know best how to serve our needs. They are the ones who know there are people in the community who want a say in where guns should be allowed, who support laws to prevent the type of weapon used to kill ten people in our community. As a mother, I want my son, his friends, all our children to feel safe. As a local librarian, I want the people coming in and participating in programs and story times to know that our local community has the power to enact laws to make us all feel safer.

Please support the passage of SB21-256 and help our community heal by knowing that our local representatives will have the ability to pass laws to protect us.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Finer
2290 Norwood Avenue,
Boulder, CO 80304

Gun Control Research-Wright and Rossi Department of Justice Study
(Deterrent effect of armed citizens upon criminal behavior)

Professors James D. Wright and Peter Rossi of the Social and Demographic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts conducted a study in 1982 and 1983 paid for by the U.S. Department of Justice. (Professor Rossi was a former President of the American Sociological Association.) The researchers interviewed 1,874 imprisoned felons in ten states.

Professors Wright and Rossi initially believed that strict gun control deterred crime. The results of their research led them to the conclusion that armed citizens have a beneficial effect in reducing criminal behavior and that harsh laws, such as handgun bans could result in criminals using sawed off rifles and shotguns with more deadly results. 88% of the criminals surveyed by Wright and Rossi agreed with the statement that, "A criminal who wants a handgun is going to get one."

A 1986 review of the professors' work, *Armed and Considered Dangerous*, by Raymond G. Kessler of the Department of Criminal Justice of Memphis State University, concluded, "Although *Armed and Considered Dangerous* is not free of methodological problems, it is the best policy-oriented study of criminals and their guns available."

Wright and Rossi reported that:

81% of interviewees agreed that a "smart criminal" will try to determine if a potential victim is armed.

74% indicated that burglars avoided occupied dwellings, because of fear of being shot.

57% said that most criminals feared armed citizens more than the police.

40% of the felons said that they had been deterred from committing a particular crime, because they believed that the potential victim was armed.

57% of the felons who had used guns themselves said that they had encountered potential victims who were armed.

34% of the criminal respondents said that they had been scared off, shot at, wounded, or captured by an armed citizen.

Based on this government-funded research by Wright and Rossi, it would appear that armed citizens do have a deterrent effect on crime.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., Daly, Kathleen, *Under the Gun, Weapons, Crime, and Violence in America*, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, 1983.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., *The Armed Criminal in America*, U.S. Department of Justice, 1985.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., *Armed and Considered Dangerous, a Survey of Felons and their Firearms*, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, 1986.

SENATE BILL SB21-256 REGARDING PERMITTING REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES

Testimony by Keith Emerson, May 24, 2021

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments on this bill. I suppose the real question you should ask yourselves is whether this bill will do anything to stop the murderous criminal activity that seems to have overtaken us in this day and age. Personally, I do not see where this bill would change anything. Just making Boulder a little happier so they can pass more local laws that will not stand up in court (there are aspects of their “assault weapon” law still moving forward in the courts) will not save one life. That said, here are my comments and I will try not to use the words “common sense.”

1. As others will note this bill creates a patchwork of regulations where what is legal on one side of a street may be illegal on the other. How is a law-abiding citizen to find out and determine what these various rules are? Example: do you know whether a 20 round magazine bought before 2013 is legal in Denver? It is legal in the state of Colorado and Denver passed an ordinance a few years ago to bring its regulations into line with the state. The answer is at the bottom of these comments.
2. Regarding concealed carry restrictions, state law already allows that any business or entity not wanting to permit entry to those carrying concealed weapons can just post a sign on the door. It’s easy, simple and visible to the permit holder. On the other hand a patchwork of relatively unknown laws would not be easy to discover, be simple or be visible to a permit holder. Again, a church on one side of a street might be legal to enter with a concealed firearm; one on the other side could be illegal to enter. As stated, state law already covers this situation by allowing the posting of signs on the doors. Allowing local regulation is not needed and all proposed changes in the text of this bill regarding concealed carry should be struck.
3. Transportation of a firearm through areas controlled by different local governing bodies needs to be specifically allowed. Unlike some current regulations this should not be an “affirmative defense” but rather specifically permitted. Let me bring to your attention one example: on page 6 starting at line 19, and specifically line 24, where it is stated that the Board of Directors of Auraria (and it applies to CU and other campuses) can restrict concealed carry in a “specific area”. This could mean the entire campus, which does include a number of public sidewalks, streets and other areas where the general public may be passing through.

Right now for interstate travel there is the Federal “Firearm Owners Protection Act”. Denver’s regulation of assault weapons contains the following language in Denver Municipal Code Section 38-130. This needs to be broadened to prohibit being charged with a crime in the first place!

“It shall be an affirmative defense to charges brought under this section that the transportation of an assault weapon:

(a) Is through the city by a nonresident who is in legal possession of an assault weapon;
or.....

4. And last but not least is the proposed wording change to 29-11.7-103 of the Senate’s bill that, “The local ordinance, regulation or other law may not impose a requirement.....that is less restrictive than state law.” This is a grave inconsistency since if you are giving power to the local governments, they should be allowed to make laws that are more restrictive than state law but also those that are less restrictive. This proposed sentence should be struck from the bill.

Almost forgot to answer the Denver magazine question. The preamble to the Denver ordinance change said that they were bringing the requirements in line with the state. They did not. The answer is that it depends where you live and what you’re doing. So is a 20 round magazine purchased before 2013 legal? It is in Colorado but for a Denver resident it is illegal. Denver was in a rush and didn’t include the grandfather clause incorporated in state law. If you aren’t a resident of Denver and claim to be passing through you have an affirmative defense. This ordinance was published and “announced” but how many people in Denver and Colorado do you think know the convoluted answer? This is just one example of the mess passing this bill will cause.

Written testimony of Anthony J. Fabian against SB256

May 24, 2021

Like all gun-control bills introduced in the past several years in the General Assembly, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. Actually, it seeks to re-introduce a problem that was cured by the 2003 pre-emption law that that this bill seeks to repeal, namely a patchwork quilt of vast and varied firearms restrictions imposed by local governments that were impossible to keep track of, let alone comply with. As an author and supporter of the laws whose repeal is sought by SB256, I am compelled to ask why the General Assembly now seeks to resurrect that onerous burden on Colorado gun owners?

We live in the sovereign State of Colorado, NOT the Colorado Confederation of City-States. When it comes to issues pertaining to the exercise of ENUMERATED CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, there cannot be any compelling local interest to equal, let alone supersede, the State's interest in protecting and preserving those Constitutional rights. Any attempt by this body to cede that supreme authority to any/all local governmental entities is an outright ABDICATION by the General Assembly of its proper constitutional authority to protect the rights of all Colorado citizens.

But this bill's destructive and damaging effects go far beyond the reintroduction of haphazard and arbitrary local gun control. It drastically devalues the ability of Colorado citizens with concealed carry permits to adequately defend themselves statewide. Under this dangerous and destructive bill now before this committee, restriction of concealed carry will be added to that vast, haphazard patchwork quilt of gun restrictions enacted and enforced by local government entities. Just as the state pre-emption law eliminated the endless and needless minefield of local firearms restrictions, the uniform shall-issue concealed carry law passed the same year removed arbitrary and capricious issue of concealed carry permits AND made it possible, with VERY FEW RESTRICTIONS, for permit holders to carry throughout the state without worry of strange, quirky, idiosyncratic local restrictions that change from one town/county to the next.

In over a quarter century of grassroots involvement and leadership in the area of Colorado firearms legislation, I have never seen a more ill-conceived, regressive, reckless and destructive piece of proposed legislation as SB 256. It willingly and enthusiastically seeks to resurrect serious problems that were corrected by the legislation SB256 now seeks to repeal and undermine. Accordingly, I strongly urge all legislators, particularly members of any committee considering this bill, to vote for the swift defeat of SB256.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Fabian, Esq.

Colo. Attorney registration 27272

May 22, 2021

RE: SB21-256. Local Regulation of Firearms.

To the Committee Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs,

My name is Margaret Lessenger and I am a resident of Golden, Colorado for forty years. I was devastated by the recent mass shooting at the Kings Soopers in South Boulder. In fact, I have been devastated by the mass killings happening around our country. I have watched as the threat of gun violence has increasingly affected our schools, our synagogues, and our overall community. The prospect of SB21-256 gives me so much hope that we can address this violence. Our local officials who live in the community know best how to serve our needs. They are the ones who know there are people in the community who want a say in where guns should be allowed, who support laws to prevent the type of weapon used to kill ten people in our community. As a mother, I want my son, his friends, all our children to feel safe.

Please support the passage of SB21-256 and help our community heal by knowing that our local representatives will have the ability to pass laws to protect us.

Sincerely,
Margaret Lessenger
17226 Rimrock Dr.
Golden, Colorado

Brady
840 First St. NE Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Kelsey Rogers, Senior Manager, State Policy, Brady
Support for SB21-256
Before the Colorado House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee
May 24, 2021

Chair Kennedy, Vice Chair Woodrow, and other distinguished members of the Colorado House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to combat the epidemic of gun violence.

Colorado is facing an acute gun violence crisis. Police departments across the state reported significant increases in the number of shootings and data from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation shows that the state experienced a 30 percent increase in the number of homicides in 2020, with upticks in murders in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Aurora.¹ The data from statewide law enforcement agencies shows homicides jumped dramatically from 226 homicides in 2019 to 295 in 2020 - 67 percent of which involved a firearm.² Much of this rate increase

¹ Schmelzer, Elise. "Colorado Saw a Nearly 30% Spike in Homicides in 2020, New Data Shows," The Denver Post, March 11, 2021. <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/03/11/colorado-crime-homicides-2020/>; Schmelzer, Elise. "Homicides in Denver Soared Last Year to Highest Level since 1981 as Communities Navigate 'State of Normlessness.'" The Denver Post, February 1, 2021. <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/01/31/denver-2020-crime-homicides/>.

² Colorado Crime Statistics. Accessed May 10, 2021. <https://coloradocrimestats.state.co.us/tops/report/violent-crimes/colorado/2020>.

came from large urban areas: Denver’s homicide rate increased 39 percent in 2020 over 2019,³ and the Colorado Springs Police Department reported that 2020 was the most murderous year in the city so far.⁴

In 2020, Colorado also experienced eleven mass shooting incidents in which four or more people were injured or killed excluding the shooter, a significant jump from the four mass shooting incidents in 2019.⁵ So far in 2021, there have been four mass shootings, including the March 22nd shooting at King Soopers supermarket in Boulder that killed ten people and a shooting at a birthday party on May 9th in Colorado Springs that killed seven people.⁶ There are practical solutions to the epidemic of gun violence in Colorado. **If signed into law, SB21-256 will permit a local government to enact regulations governing the sale and possession of a firearm, ammunition or firearm component, helping to restore local authority to pass and implement gun violence prevention policies that will best serve individual communities across Colorado.**

Gun violence is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires a response at every level of government – federal, state, and local. Further, gun violence manifests differently in communities across Colorado. Accordingly, the most effective strategy to address the crisis of gun violence is to empower localities to enact regulations that are uniquely suited to violence they are experiencing within their borders. For instance, different solutions are required to combat the crisis of firearms suicide in rural Colorado communities than the appropriate approach needed to break cycles of violence in urban neighborhoods.

However, Colorado’s “preemption” law prevents local governments from taking this kind of action to reduce violence within their jurisdictions. Under existing Colorado law, localities “may not enact an ordinance, regulation, or other law that prohibits the sale, purchase, or possession of a firearm that a person may lawfully sell, purchase, or possess under state or federal law.” This sweeping provision severely limits local governments in adopting common sense laws that will be particularly effective in targeting local issues.

Given that local government officials are particularly equipped to discern what kinds of regulations are necessary in their communities, it is critical that local governments have the authority to adopt gun violence prevention measures that are tailored to address the gun violence closest to home and have the ability to direct local resources to effectively implementing those solutions.

³ Summers, DJ. “Shootings Nearly Tripled in Denver This January.” FOX31 Denver, February 2, 2021. <https://kdvr.com/news/local/shootings-nearly-tripled-in-denver-this-january/>.

⁴ Aedo, Zachary. “2020 Becomes the Year with the Most Murders in Colorado Springs.” KRDO, December 31, 2020. <https://krdo.com/news/2020/12/31/2020-becomes-the-year-with-the-most-murders-in-colorado-springs/>.

⁵ Gun Violence Archive. Accessed May 10, 2021. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>

⁶ Id.

Colorado's preemption law has tragic, tangible consequences: just ten days before the King Soopers supermarket shooting, a court overturned Boulder's assault weapons ban because of Colorado's preemption law.⁷ While the shooter purchased the Ruger AR-556 pistol used in the shooting at a gun store near his home six days before the shooting, reports suggest that the type of gun used in the shooting would have been included in the recently overturned assault weapons ban.⁸ Regardless of whether Boulder's assault weapons ban would have prevented *this* shooting, the fact that Boulder's ordinance was blocked just ten days before the King Soopers shooting has brought increasing attention to the importance of allowing localities to implement their own laws. Removing Colorado's preemption law would permit bans such as the one in Boulder to remain in place.

SB21-256 would also enable local government officials to make determinations as to where concealed handguns can be carried in their jurisdictions. The bill would allow local governments and governing boards of institutions of higher education to enact rules or regulations that prohibit individuals from carrying a concealed handgun in specific buildings or areas within the jurisdiction of the local government. To ensure that all Coloradoans are aware of these regulations and remain in compliance with the law, SB21-256 requires that local governments that prohibit the carrying of a concealed handgun in a particular area shall post signs at the public entrances to these areas to inform individuals that concealed carry of handguns is prohibited in that building or area.

Beyond these specific examples, allowing for the regulation of firearms by local governments has the potential to change the lives of individuals in urban areas where gun violence is an everyday and prevalent occurrence. Under current law, cities like Denver which experience a disproportionate amount of everyday gun violence are not able to implement any firearms regulations to address the unique scourge of gun violence in their communities.

Gun violence in Denver requires a different set of solutions due to its pervasive nature: entire communities are traumatized by the high rates of gun violence experienced in certain communities. Midway through 2020, reports indicated that Denver police were responding to significant increases in the number of shootings compared to 2019, and while Denver County's

⁷ Whitehurst, Lindsay. "Blocked Boulder Assault-Weapons Ban Renews Gun Law Questions." AP NEWS. Associated Press, March 23, 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/boulder-shootings-colorado-lawsuits-coronavirus-pandemic-aa071c955cfd79099d2d6a9a5a2a7ca2>.

⁸ Brown, Jennifer, Danika Worthington, and Eric Lubbers. "Where Did They Get the Guns? A Comprehensive Look at Colorado's History of Public Gun Violence." The Colorado Sun, April 15, 2021. <https://coloradosun.com/2021/04/12/guns-used-in-colorado-mass-shootings/>; Nieberg, Patty, and James Anderson. "Boulder Shooting Suspect Passed Background Check in Legal Gun Purchase." The Denver Post, March 26, 2021. <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/03/26/boulder-colorado-shooting-suspect-legal-gun-purchase/>; Bella, Timothy, Alex Horton, and Teo Armus. "Days after Assault Weapons Ban Was Lifted in Boulder, a Community Grieves Another Mass Shooting in America: 'It Hurts'." The Washington Post, March 24, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/03/23/guns-boulder-shooting-assault-weapons-ban/>.

population is just 10 percent Black, 48 percent of the victims of shootings in the first half of the year were Black.⁹ By the end of the year, more than 90 people had been killed in homicides in Denver, the highest number of recorded in the city since 1981.¹⁰ An additional 305 people were injured in shootings, a 51 percent increase from 2019.¹¹ Denver provides just one further example of the necessity of providing local governments with the ability to regulate the laws in their jurisdiction to help prevent gun violence in their communities.

State preemption laws hinder effective gun violence prevention measures at the local level. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence strongly encourages the Colorado House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee to vote in favor of SB21-256, which will enable local governments to enact firearms regulations and ordinances within their communities helping to protect all Coloradoans from gun violence.

⁹ Lizarraga, Lori. "There Has Been a 50% Increase in Gun Deaths in Denver since Last Year. Let's Break down the Data." KUSA, July 23, 2020. <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/denver-gun-violence-data/73-f71cb030-9f7b-4c04-b371-1fb0d3e6eacf>.

¹⁰ Schmelzer, Elise. "Homicides in Denver Soared Last Year to Highest Level since 1981 as Communities Navigate 'State of Normlessness.'" The Denver Post, February 1, 2021. <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/01/31/denver-2020-crime-homicides/>.

¹¹ Schmelzer, Elise. "Homicides in Denver Soared Last Year to Highest Level since 1981 as Communities Navigate 'State of Normlessness.'" The Denver Post, February 1, 2021. <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/01/31/denver-2020-crime-homicides/>.

I am very grateful to Chair Kennedy and the committee for their time today! My name is Alberto Martinez Reyes, I live in Grand Junction Colorado, I work at Big O Tires. I have been living and working in Grand Junction for about 15 years. I am here to testify in support of SB 131.

I would like to share about the importance of building trust with our immigrant communities. For a long time, many people I know did not trust the Grand Junction police. People were afraid of them and would not make reports of crimes that happened in their neighborhoods because they didn't want to give personal information to the police. The police department, in partnership with the state police and the county sheriff's department, asked the immigrant community to participate in informational academies. During these information sessions they assured us that they were not collaborating or sharing information with ICE. Thanks to that we lost our fear, we gained confidence and we got involved in knowing and learning the law. Ties of trust were strengthened, we participated more with the city, and we learned the law better. By having a better relationship with our police force, we gained confidence knowing that they were not giving information to ICE. Now we view the police with respect and admiration, not with fear and fear as before, we approach confidently and cooperate. This helped a lot and this process of building a bridge with the community took years of work by the police.

Trust takes a long time to build, but it can be destroyed in one action! That's what happened in the case of the DMV. I obtained the SB-251 license complying with the requirements and sharing my information with the state. I struggled for a year to get an appointment for my license! With what has been known of the DMV sharing information with ICE, once again the trust of the community is completely broken. This caused the Latino community to proceed with fear again, the government and some institutions through these actions and have broken the construction of a bridge with the immigrant community. There is distrust in processing the license, as well as in accessing other services, but they are things the community needs to feel more secure. It is a betrayal that some government actors share that information to be used against us!

We need SB 131 to become law, as part of a systemic change to benefit all Coloradans. We should not depend on good or bad officials, but on a system that guarantees that our information will be treated with dignity and respect! This is a nation under God that sees its citizens with humanity and love! Our laws must reflect this sentiment in action ! That is why I ask that you vote in favor of SB-131 to protect everyone's data! Thank you very much for your time.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Cody Davis 970-244-1605

District 2 – Scott McInnis 970-244-1604

District 3 – Janet Rowland 970-244-1606

May 24, 2021

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
Colorado General Assembly
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Opposition to SB21-256

Dear Chair Kennedy and Committee Members:

Mesa County appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SB21-256. While we believe that the proper role of government is public safety and protecting our constituents, SB21-256 is not the right bill and Mesa County is opposed to this legislation.

Mesa County supports the position of the Mesa County Sheriff, who also opposes this legislation. While Mesa County is generally in favor of local control legislation, we feel strongly that firearms regulation is a matter of statewide concern. It is important to ensure consistency of the application of regulations for the purchase, sale and possession of firearms, ammunition, firearm accessories and components across county and municipal lines.

We also believe that the application of concealed weapon permit regulations must be consistent among local governments, special districts and higher education campuses.

Therefore, Mesa County respectfully requests that the members of this Committee vote "NO" on SB21-256.

Sincerely,

Cody Davis, Commissioner
Board of County Commissioners

cc: Senator Ray Scott
Representative Janice Rich
Representative Matt Soper