

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 20-1168

I oppose HB 1168 because it is dangerous and reckless and respectfully request that this committee vote it down. This is the 15th year that this extremely dangerous and reckless bill has appeared. Senator Cory Gardner first put forth this dangerous and reckless bill back in 2005 and every year Republicans bring it back and every year it goes down in flames. Colorado Ceasefire and other sane and reasonable people have successfully advocated for its defeat every year and this year is no different. Sane and reasonable people oppose this bill because it gives civil and criminal immunity to anyone who uses deadly force in a business location if they feel in physical danger, "no matter how slight." Although the bill does specify unlawful entry, it is not hard to imagine a scenario where the business location was not sufficiently secured and person errantly entered. Unlike a home, strangers are constantly present in business, especially retail, locations. Worst of all, HB 1168 gives killers blanket civil and criminal immunity from prosecution in violation of 18-3-101, CRS. As a former public defender, I know that HB 1168 is extremely dangerous, endangers public health, prioritizes gun profits over public health, and is in direct conflict with 18-3-101, CRS, and it must be soundly defeated. Colorado Republicans, along with Representative Sandridge, and the Rocky Mountain Gun Owner's Association, have conspired with gun manufacturers to endanger public health by putting forth this irresponsible and dangerous bill. In fact, Colorado should put forth bills to ban assault weapons and make gun manufacturers and sellers civilly liable for mass shootings. HB 1168 endangers public health, prioritizes gun profits over public health and is in direct conflict with 18-3-101, CRS., and it must be voted down. Thank you.

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