

**House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs**

**03/17/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1225 Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

| <b>Name, Position, Representing</b>  | <b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>   |
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| Eric Poling<br>Against<br>themselves | To whom it may concern,<br><br>I ask that you oppose this bill. This bill forces a citizen at a time of incredible political divisiveness to choose between exercising their first amendment right or their second amendment right. How can a citizen be forced to choose between exercising a right which is God given? Both rights should be able to be used concurrently. I ask that you reconsider this assault on our first and second amendment rights. Political speech and the right to keep and bear arms should both be protected.   |
| Jeany Rush<br>Against<br>themselves  | TO: HOUSE STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY, & VETERANS AFFAIRS<br>RE: HB25-1225 Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act<br>Sponsor: Woodrow 3-17-25<br>FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent<br>VOTE NO<br><br>You have managed to create a dystopian ethos in one bill by combining a variety of scenarios to scare, legislate, control, and twist reality while creating yet another document, bill, law, edict to tell the public more of the misinformation running around in circles.<br><br>We do not need another hidden gun control device, and to include toy guns, makes me think you are not genuine, nor Realistic.. Another Ministry of Thought and Scare Police.<br><br>Another aggrieved individual misinformed, or set into motion for yet another litigation avenue. Like we don't already have enough of the frivolous suits going around the country.<br><br>Anyone carrying a visable weapon is carrying legally, or if not, there are already laws to address all of that ad nauseum in Colorado.<br><br>We also have laws about how to behave at poll places, and having been a poll judge, I have seen that operate quite efficiently, and no one was breaking any laws, or rules. Most of the people who work in our election centers, have taken training, and already do things in a very proper manner.<br><br>We do not need more people in the SOS, and AG office, etc. to exercise any more powers over our heads. |

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|  | <p>Elections should be local, and not the "Over Lord" system Colorado is attempting to cram down our throats.</p> <p>You are at this point, wasting our money, and creating more Fear PORN in every way. How About concentrating on the real Porn you all are pushing in our schools, and childrens' lives! NO NO NO</p>   |
| <p>Jeany Rush<br/>Against<br/>themselves</p> | <p>TO: HOUSE STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY, &amp; VETERANS AFFAIRS<br/>RE: HB25-1225 Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act<br/>Sponsor: Woodrow 3-17-25<br/>FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent<br/>VOTE NO</p> <p>You have managed to create a dystopian ethos in one bill by combining a variety of scenarios to scare, legislate, control, and twist reality while creating yet another document, bill, law, edict to tell the public more of the misinformation running around in circles.</p> <p>We do not need another hidden gun control device, and to include toy guns, makes me think you are not genuine, nor Realistic.. Another Ministry of Thought and Scare Police.</p> <p>Another aggrieved individual misinformed, or set into motion for yet another letigation avenue. Like we don't already have enough of the frivolous suits going around the country.</p> <p>Anyone carrying a visable weapon is carrying legally, or if not, there are already laws to address all of that ad nauseum in Colorado.</p> <p>We also have laws about how to behave at poll places, and having been a poll judge, I have seen that operate quite efficiently, and no one was breaking any laws, or rules. Most of the people who work in our election centers, have taken training, and already do things in a very proper manner.</p> <p>We do not need more people in the SOS, and AG office, etc. to exercise any more powers over our heads.</p> <p>Elections should be local, and not the "Over Lord" system Colorado is attempting to cram down our throats.</p> <p>You are at this point, wasting our money, and creating more Fear PORN in every way. How About concentrating on the real Porn you all are pushing in our schools, and childrens' lives! NO NO NO</p> |

**Testimony in opposition to: HB25-1225, Freedom From Intimidation in Elections Act**

**The Firearms Coalition of Colorado**  
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

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 the intention of the sponsor to promote election safety is laudable and honorable, this approach seems to be misguided and to have several unintended consequences. We believe that this bill is not a solution in search of a problem. We think it is an overly broad problem in search of a problem.

Brandishing a weapon and menacing are already crimes in Colorado. The measure is redundant and unnecessary, as well as a nightmare vis a vis the Constitutional Rights of Coloradans in those areas where the state and local governments have graciously allowed open carry of firearms.

Page 6, Line 12, almost implies a presumption of intimidation on the part of an open carrier. This logical leap seems to stray into *Minority Report* territory, where the government can somehow read minds and divine the intentions of citizens.

Page 7, Line 26, seems to imply that the very act of open carry is an attempt at intimidation or coercion. The Bill effectively puts a preemptive restraining order out against all open carriers in the state during an almost continuous multitude of campaign and petition gathering seasons, not to mention casual political discussions, which could happen at any time. Not only would a person who was open carrying have to worry about potential criminal activity around him or her, he or she also would also be forced to run a dangerous gauntlet of voter registration workers and petition circulators with clipboards, campaign workers, and less than honest "plain clothes" political activists on the prowl for lawfare fodder against unsuspecting citizens.

This bill would create "un-free speech zones" near supermarkets, public gatherings, street corners, and numerous other places, and have a definite chilling effect on the exercise of a Constitutionally-protected right. In addition, the bill will almost certainly be challenged in court, adding much more in legal costs to Colorado's already strained budget.

We urge a "No" vote on this proposal.

Thank you,

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER



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March 11, 2025

Colorado General Assembly  
Attn.: State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs  
C/O Representative Jenny Willford, Chair  
C/O Representative Chad Clifford, Vice Chair  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

Subj: House Bill 25-1225 (Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act)

Prime Sponsor(s): Representative Steven Woodrow  
Committee: House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs  
Committee Date: 03/17/2025  
Position: **Support**

Madam Chair, members of the committee, my name is Steve Schleiker, and I am the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in full support of House Bill 25-1225, the Freedom From Intimidation in Elections Act.

As the official responsible for overseeing elections in El Paso County, home to over 568,000 Total Registered Voters, I have witnessed firsthand the increasing threats, intimidation, and harassment directed toward voters, election workers, and election judges in recent election cycles.

During the 2020 and 2022 General Elections, my staff, our election judges, and I experienced an alarming rise in intimidation tactics:

- In 2022, dozens of individuals gathered outside our office, shouting at election workers and recording them during a recount. Some openly prayed for harm to come to our election team. These actions were not just disruptive; they were meant to instill fear and undermine the election process.
- Election judges, many of whom are senior citizens volunteering their time, received threats simply for doing their job. Some were harassed in public, leading several to resign out of concern for their safety.
- Staff in our ballot processing center were followed to their cars, with some encountering individuals carrying firearms or wearing tactical gear, leading to serious safety concerns.
- Voters reported being filmed and questioned at drop boxes, a practice designed to discourage participation in the electoral process.

These acts of intimidation are not hypothetical, they are real threats that have directly impacted election officials, judges, and voters in my community and across the state.

Colorado and our sixty-four County Clerk and Recorders work extremely hard to ensure Colorado has one of the most secure, accessible, and trusted election systems in the country, but we cannot allow fear and intimidation to erode confidence in our elections. House Bill 25-1225 strengthens protections for voters and election workers, ensuring that no one is bullied out of their constitutional right to participate in our elections.

I urge this committee to stand with election workers, election judges, and voters by passing this bill. Every Coloradan, regardless of party affiliation, deserves to cast their ballot freely and safely. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Schleiker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S".

Steve Schleiker, Clerk and Recorder  
El Paso County