

SB25-003 Keith Emerson – Testimony for the March 13, 2025 House Finance Committee Meeting

Please put SB25-003 out of its misery.

Since this bill passed out of the Senate on February 18 there have been a number of changes approved by the House Judiciary Committee. Seven amendments were passed late at night on March 11 with a number of them dealing with the finances for the bill. Quite a shell game to try and get around Tabor. The new methodology and mechanisms aren't included in the current "Fiscal Note". Even within the Judiciary Committee there were questions on whether this approach would work. As far as the labor required, fees, etc. the estimates will vary drastically based on whether just rifles are covered or whether Attorney General Phil Wieser decides to include common semi-automatic pistols (but that's another discussion).

As near as I can figure out, there are four entities in the process before someone is allowed to go to a firearm dealer: the applicant, county Sheriffs (a number of whom came and testified that they didn't have the resources to do this), the Division of Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. As near as I can tell, the responsibilities are spit as given below.

The applicant is responsible for filling out the application for permission to take the required class, provide their own background check completed by a third party vendor of "national and Colorado public criminal history and judicial databases". [L.049 line 21], get fingerprinted, photographed and investigated by their Sheriff and pay fees to the Sheriff for their investigation and the required class. [L.048, line 11]

The Sheriff is responsible for their own investigation of the individual, acquiring two sets of fingerprints to be given to the CBI, a photo and collecting the Firearm Training and Safety Course Fee which now includes their money and is passed on to the DPW. The Sheriffs also qualify the course instructors. There's some language about setting the fee Sheriffs will get but the mechanism for their part is unclear. As mentioned, a number of Sheriffs testified that they didn't have the resources to handle all this.

The CBI is required to do the background check based on fingerprints and possibly another through the Federal "NICS" system. They would be reimbursed by the DPW.

The Division of Parks and Wildlife would "borrow" funds from the "Parks And Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund" or from the "Wildlife Cash Fund" to stand up the program. [L.043 line 14 expands beyond operations to funding "implementation"] [L.052 line5]. It's hoped the money will be paid back by 2030. As mentioned, even some Judicial Committee members wondered about this approach and its impact on DPW operations.

Besides being responsible for the cash in and cash out, the DPW would be responsible for setting up a database to keep track of people allowed to acquire semi-auto weapons. They are also required to establish course requirements [L.051 line 9], creating an application form, publishing guidance on specific models of firearms covered [L.043 line 30], etc.

As far as course requirements go, I'm unclear on whether they will be actually doing content or going further. Certainly, this will mean an uptick in Hunter Safety Education classes and there was testimony that the in-person classes suggested under this bill currently have a 120 day waiting list.

The bottom line is that as time has gone on this bill has morphed and changed dramatically. It doesn't tie into many of the existing systems. For instance, the Concealed Weapons Permit process looks somewhat similar for an applicant but is a totally independent path. The current approach of this bill also does not appear to follow the Supreme Court's guidelines for being allowed under the Second Amendment.

You can put all the lipstick you want on this bill, but it's still a pig. Please postpone this bill indefinitely in the meeting Friday.

Sincerely,

Keith Emerson

Denver

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I'm writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, or the Semi-Automatic Firearm Ban and Gun Owner Registry.

Argument Against SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

1. Constitutional Concerns: At its core, SB25-003 infringes upon the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right of citizens to "keep and bear Arms." The bill's broad restrictions on semiautomatic firearms and related devices disproportionately target law-abiding gun owners, penalizing them for owning firearms that are legally acquired and used responsibly. By banning the manufacture, sale, and purchase of "specified semiautomatic firearms," the bill effectively criminalizes the possession of widely used firearms without a clear, demonstrated link to increased crime or harm. These firearms are commonly owned for lawful purposes, such as self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting, and are among the most commonly sold firearms in America.

2. Vague Definitions and Overreach: The bill's vague definitions of "specified semiautomatic firearm" and "rapid-fire devices" create confusion and could lead to unjust enforcement. For instance, the bill excludes certain firearms but fails to provide clarity on the criteria for exclusion, which opens the door to potential misinterpretation and overly broad enforcement practices. The broad categorization of "rapid-fire devices" as dangerous weapons is also concerning. The bill fails to explain the specifics of what constitutes a "rapid-fire device" and could lead to the criminalization of lawful firearm accessories or modifications that are not inherently dangerous. This overreach threatens not only firearm owners but also manufacturers, retailers, and individuals involved in the lawful use of firearms.

3. Impact on Law-abiding Citizens: While the bill offers exceptions for specific situations, the prohibitions it sets out could cause significant hardship for responsible gun owners. For example, restricting transfers of specified semiautomatic firearms without the involvement of licensed dealers will complicate the ability to pass firearms down to family members or to transfer them in the event of relocation. Many lawful firearm owners may now be subject to potential criminal penalties due to their ownership of commonly used semiautomatic rifles or shotguns. These provisions disproportionately affect those who are law-abiding and have no involvement in criminal activity.

4. Limited Effectiveness in Reducing Crime: The bill seeks to address public safety concerns, but evidence does not show that semiautomatic firearms, in and of themselves, are disproportionately used in crimes of violence. The proposed ban does little to address the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health issues, gang violence, and illegal firearm trafficking. Moreover, criminals intent on committing violent acts will always find ways to circumvent laws, whether by acquiring firearms through

illegal channels or modifying existing weapons to suit their purposes. In other words, the bill's focus on semiautomatic firearms overlooks more effective measures that could better target criminal behavior without penalizing lawful gun owners.

For reference see:

<https://fee.org/articles/guns-prevent-thousands-of-crimes-every-day-research-show/>

<https://www.gunfacts.info/gun-policy-info/crime-and-guns/>

5. Burden on Law Enforcement and Resources: SB25-003 places an unnecessary burden on law enforcement agencies by creating additional administrative work in regulating firearms training, sales, transfers, and safety records. Mandating background checks and extensive record-keeping—while possibly well-intentioned—diverts valuable law enforcement resources away from more pressing criminal activity. Furthermore, the bill's stipulation to revoke firearms dealer permits and restrict firearms transfers based on prior offenses could lead to unintended consequences for those who have minor infractions but are otherwise responsible firearm owners.

6. Strain on Personal Liberty: This bill's broad prohibitions and heavy regulatory framework place an undue strain on personal liberties. It mandates courses, fingerprint checks, and other bureaucratic processes before lawful citizens can purchase or transfer their firearms. While safety courses are beneficial, requiring government-issued eligibility cards and maintaining extensive databases on citizens could lead to unnecessary surveillance and erosion of privacy. The imposition of additional government controls on law-abiding citizens will create a precedent for further encroachments on other constitutional rights, setting a dangerous path toward greater government oversight in private matters.

7. Ineffectiveness of Gun Bans in General: Historically, banning firearms or firearm accessories has not proven to be an effective way to reduce violence. Countries and states that have enacted similar bans, such as Australia and the UK, have seen minimal long-term impact on reducing violent crime rates, while the United States has not demonstrated significant evidence that banning specific types of firearms has any real-world impact on the most violent crimes. Law-abiding citizens should not bear the brunt of ineffective policy that targets a small subset of guns when the real issue lies in criminal behavior and illegal firearms trafficking.

Conclusion: SB25-003, while well-intentioned in seeking to reduce firearm violence, ultimately fails to address the real causes of such violence and unfairly penalizes law-abiding citizens. It poses unnecessary regulatory burdens, infringes on constitutional rights, and offers limited practical benefits in terms of public safety. Rather than imposing broad, sweeping bans on commonly owned firearms, policymakers should focus on more targeted measures that address illegal gun trafficking, mental health

issues, and criminal activity. Gun ownership and responsible use are rights protected by the Constitution, and any restrictions must be narrowly tailored to ensure they do not unfairly impact law-abiding citizens.

Article II, Bill of Rights

Bill of Rights

In order to assert our rights, acknowledge our duties, and proclaim the principles upon which our government is founded, we declare:

Section 1. *Vestment of political power.* All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government, of right, originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Section 2. *People may alter or abolish form of government* □ *proviso.* The people of this state have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves, as a free, sovereign and independent state; and to alter and abolish their constitution and form of government whenever they may deem it necessary to their safety and happiness, provided, such change be not repugnant to the constitution of the United States.

Section 3. *Inalienable rights.* All persons have certain natural, essential and inalienable rights, among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; of acquiring, possessing and protecting property; and of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.

Section 4. *Religious freedom.* The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination, shall forever hereafter be guaranteed; and no person shall be denied any civil or political right, privilege or capacity, on account of his opinions concerning religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be construed to dispense with oaths or affirmations, excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the good order, peace or safety of the state. No person shall be required to attend or support any ministry or place of worship, religious sect or denomination against his consent. Nor shall any preference be given by law to any religious denomination or mode of worship.

Section 5. *Freedom of elections.* All elections shall be free and open; and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Section 6. *Equality of justice.* Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and a speedy remedy afforded for every injury to person, property or character; and right and justice should be administered without sale, denial or delay.

Section 7. *Security of person and property* □ *searches* □ *seizures* □ *warrants.* The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, homes and effects, from unreasonable searches and seizures; and no warrant to search any place or seize any person or things shall issue without describing the place to be searched, or the person or thing to

be seized, as near as may be, nor without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

Section 8. *Prosecutions* □ *indictment or information*. Until otherwise provided by law, no person shall, for a felony, be proceeded against criminally otherwise than by indictment, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia when in actual service in time of war or public danger. In all other cases, offenses shall be prosecuted criminally by indictment or information.

Section 9. *Treason* □ *estates of suicides*. Treason against the state can consist only in levying war against it or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person can be convicted of treason, unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person can be attainted of treason or felony by the general assembly; no conviction can work corruption of blood or forfeiture of estate; the estates of such persons as may destroy their own lives shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

Section 10. *Freedom of speech and press*. No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech; every person shall be free to speak, write or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty; and in all suits and prosecutions for libel the truth thereof may be given in evidence, and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the fact.

Section 11. *Ex post facto laws*. No ex post facto law, nor law impairing the obligation of contracts, or retrospective in its operation, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises or immunities, shall be passed by the general assembly.

Section 12. *No imprisonment for debt*. No person shall be imprisoned for debt, unless upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors in such manner as shall be prescribed by law, or in cases of tort or where there is a strong presumption of fraud.

Section 13. *Right to bear arms*. The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons.

Section 14. *Taking private property for private use*. Private property shall not be taken for private use unless by consent of the owner, except for private ways of necessity, and except for reservoirs, drains, flumes or ditches on or across the lands of others, for agricultural, mining, milling, domestic or sanitary purposes.

Section 15. *Taking property for public use* □ *compensation, how ascertained*. Private property shall not be taken or damaged, for public or private use, without just compensation. Such compensation shall be ascertained by a board of commissioners, of not less than three freeholders, or by a jury, when required by the owner of the

property, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, and until the same shall be paid to the owner, or into court for the owner, the property shall not be needlessly disturbed, or the proprietary rights of the owner therein divested; and whenever an attempt is made to take private property for a use alleged to be public, the question whether the contemplated use be really public shall be a judicial question, and determined as such without regard to any legislative assertion that the use is public.

Section 16. *Criminal prosecutions* □ *rights of defendant*. In criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed.

Section 16a. *Rights of crime victims*. Any person who is a victim of a criminal act, or such person's designee, legal guardian, or surviving immediate family members if such person is deceased, shall have the right to be heard when relevant, informed, and present at all critical stages of the criminal justice process. All terminology, including the term "critical stages", shall be defined by the general assembly.

[As enacted November 3, 1992 □□ Effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 14, 1993. (For the text of the amendments and the votes cast thereon, see L. 91, p. 2031 and L. 93, p. 2154.)]

Section 17. *Imprisonment of witnesses* □ *depositions* □ *form*. No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any case longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security he shall be discharged; if he cannot give security his deposition shall be taken by some judge of the supreme, district or county court, at the earliest time he can attend, at some convenient place by him appointed for that purpose, of which time and place the accused and the attorney prosecuting for the people shall have reasonable notice. The accused shall have the right to appear in person and by counsel. If he has no counsel, the judge shall assign him one in his behalf only. On the completion of such examination the witness shall be discharged on his own recognizance, entered into before said judge, but such deposition shall not be used if in the opinion of the court the personal attendance of the witness might be procured by the prosecution, or is procured by the accused. No exception shall be taken to such deposition as to matters of form.

Section 18. *Crimes* □ *evidence against one's self* □ *jeopardy*. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal case nor shall any person be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense. If the jury disagree, or if the judgment be arrested after the verdict, or if the judgment be reversed for error in law, the accused shall not be deemed to have been in jeopardy.

Section 19. *Right to bail* □ *exceptions*. (1) All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties pending disposition of charges except:

(a) For capital offenses when proof is evident or presumption is great; or

(b) When, after a hearing held within ninety-six hours of arrest and upon reasonable notice, the court finds that proof is evident or presumption is great as to the crime alleged to have been committed and finds that the public would be placed in significant peril if the accused were released on bail and such person is accused in any of the following cases:

(I) A crime of violence, as may be defined by the general assembly, alleged to have been committed while on probation or parole resulting from the conviction of a crime of violence;

(II) A crime of violence, as may be defined by the general assembly, alleged to have been committed while on bail pending the disposition of a previous crime of violence charge for which probable cause has been found;

(III) A crime of violence, as may be defined by the general assembly, alleged to have been committed after two previous felony convictions, or one such previous felony conviction if such conviction was for a crime of violence, upon charges separately brought and tried under the laws of this state or under the laws of any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States which, if committed in this state, would be a felony; or

(c) (Deleted by amendment.)

(2) Except in the case of a capital offense, if a person is denied bail under this section, the trial of the person shall be commenced not more than ninety days after the date on which bail is denied. If the trial is not commenced within ninety days and the delay is not attributable to the defense, the court shall immediately schedule a bail hearing and shall set the amount of the bail for the person.

(2.5) (a) The court may grant bail after a person is convicted, pending sentencing or appeal, only as provided by statute as enacted by the general assembly; except that no bail is allowed for persons convicted of:

(I) Murder;

(II) Any felony sexual assault involving the use of a deadly weapon;

(III) Any felony sexual assault committed against a child who is under fifteen years of age;

(IV) A crime of violence, as defined by statute enacted by the general assembly; or

(V) Any felony during the commission of which the person used a firearm.

(b) The court shall not set bail that is otherwise allowed pursuant to this subsection (2.5) unless the court finds that:

(I) The person is unlikely to flee and does not pose a danger to the safety of any person or the community; and

(II) The appeal is not frivolous or is not pursued for the purpose of delay.

(3) This section shall take effect January 1, 1995, and shall apply to offenses committed on or after said date.

[Repealed and reenacted, with amendments, November 2, 1982 ☐☐ Effective January 1, 1983. (See L. 82, p. 685.); as amended November 8, 1994 ☐☐ Effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 19, 1995. (See L. 94, p. 2853.)]

Section 20. *Excessive bail, fines or punishment.* Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 21. *Suspension of habeas corpus.* The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended, unless when in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

Section 22. *Military subject to civil power ☐ quartering of troops.* The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war except in the manner prescribed by law.

Section 23. *Trial by jury ☐ grand jury.* The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate in criminal cases; but a jury in civil cases in all courts, or in criminal cases in courts not of record, may consist of less than twelve persons, as may be prescribed by law. Hereafter a grand jury shall consist of twelve persons, any nine of whom concurring may find an indictment; provided, the general assembly may change, regulate or abolish the grand jury system; and provided, further, the right of any person to serve on any jury shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex, and the general assembly may provide by law for the exemption from jury service of persons or classes of persons.

[As amended November 7, 1944. (See Laws 1945, p. 424.)]

Section 24. *Right to assemble and petition.* The people have the right peaceably to assemble for the common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances, by petition or remonstrance.

Section 25. *Due process of law.* No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law.

Section 26. *Slavery prohibited.* There shall never be in this state either slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

Section 27. *Property rights of aliens.* Aliens, who are or may hereafter become bona fide residents of this state, may acquire, inherit, possess, enjoy and dispose of property, real and personal, as native born citizens.

Section 28. *Rights reserved not disparaged.* The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair or disparage others retained by the people.

Section 29. *Equality of the sexes.* Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the state of Colorado or any of its political subdivisions on account of sex.

{Adopted November 7, 1972 ☐☐ Effective upon proclamation by the Governor, January 11, 1973. (See Laws 1972, p. 647.)}

Section 30. *Right to vote or petition on annexation ☐ enclaves.* (1) No unincorporated area may be annexed to a municipality unless one of the following conditions first has been met:

(a) The question of annexation has been submitted to the vote of the landowners and the registered electors in the area proposed to be annexed, and the majority of such persons voting on the question have voted for the annexation; or

(b) The annexing municipality has received a petition for the annexation of such area signed by persons comprising more than fifty percent of the landowners in the area and owning more than fifty percent of the area, excluding public streets, and alleys and any land owned by the annexing municipality; or

(c) The area is entirely surrounded by or is solely owned by the annexing municipality.

(2) The provisions of this section shall not apply to annexations to the city and county of Denver, to the extent that such annexations are governed by other provisions of the constitution.

(3) The general assembly may provide by law for procedures necessary to implement this section. This section shall take effect upon completion of the canvass of votes taken thereon.

[Enacted by the People November 4, 1980 ☐☐ Effective upon proclamation of the Governor, December 19, 1980. (For the text of the initiated measure and the votes cast thereon, see L. 81, p. 2055.)]

Section 30a. *Official language.* The English language is the official language of the State of Colorado.

This section is self executing; however, the General Assembly may enact laws to implement this section.

[Enacted by the People November 8, 1988 ☐☐ Effective upon proclamation of the Governor, January 3, 1989. (For the text of the initiated measure and the votes cast thereon, see L. 89, p. 1663.)]

Section 30b. *No Protected Status Based on Homosexual, Lesbian or Bisexual Orientation.* Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination. This Section of the Constitution shall be in all respects self-executing.

[Enacted by the people November 3, 1992 ☐☐ Effective upon proclamation of the Governor. (For the text of the initiated measure and the votes cast thereon, see L. 93, p. 2164.) Declared to violate the United States Constitution by the United States Supreme Court in 1996. Not in force.]

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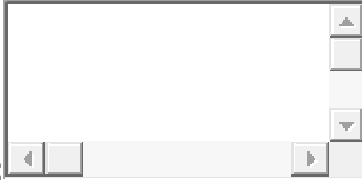
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LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Written Testimonu Against SB25-003

1 message

mcomber1@netzero.net <mcomber1@netzero.net>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Thu, Mar 13, 2025 at 9:25 PM

To Whom It May concern:

Subject bill is an affront to anyone who values the United States Constitution. On its face it violates the second amendment to the Constitution and will undoubtedly be declared unconstitutional. But, while that process winds through the courts the people who can least afford it will be those most injured if it passes. Those who put forth this deceptive piece of legislation know that, but don't care if they hurt the most vulnerable among us. Typical leftist hypocrisy!

L. Tindal

There are others before me and after me that will make the argument that SB25-003 is unconstitutional and does not hold up to Supreme Court decisions. I agree with this argument against this bill. I also agree that this bill does not address the core issues its sponsors and supporters claim it will. These are not the arguments I am going to make here.

There have been two rounds of committee testimony regarding this bill, and in both cases the public testimony against the bill has continued long after the pool of supporters was emptied. This, to me, should indicate that the people do not want this bill, but that is perhaps a naïve viewpoint to take.

The side of gun control has noble intentions, and of that fact we can agree. We can disagree on how those intentions should be enforced, but we can all agree that the result of ending gun violence is a good one. The side of gun control, however, has a fatal flaw: they will never be happy.

I hear an argument from the side of gun control often that gun rights supporters should compromise. After all, they argue, they do not want to ban guns, just ones that are too dangerous. They do not want to stop the sale of guns; they just want to make it harder for the wrong people to get them. Again, these are noble goals, but the request of compromise from the gun control side is always in complete detriment to the gun rights side. There is always an argument made that these firearms should be banned from civilian sale, or that this tax or waiting period will help. Then parts of that get pared back; no longer a ban on the sale of certain firearms, but a permit-to-purchase system; not a ten-day waiting period, but a three day one. In these, gun control proponents argue there has been a compromise, as they have ceded some of their position.

The opposite is never true, however. Bills introduced to increase gun rights are summarily dismissed, and the gun control side complains of the attempt to take us backward and make things less safe. To undue their work.

So, here is where I take the most umbrage with SB25-003 (and all other gun control bills): the side that writes, sponsors, and supports them does not work from a position of good faith. Their position is always to ask for more, and to never give any ground they have given previously.

In Colorado, we have many measures in place that have fallen under the banner of common-sense gun control. We have a capacity limit for magazines, universal background checks, mandatory waiting periods, age limits to purchase firearms (and ammunition, should that bill pass), and an upcoming excise tax on firearms and ammunition. Yet, these are not enough, and for the two prior years, assault weapons bans were proposed (and lost both times). And now, in the third year, a sweeping ban on semiautomatic firearms has been introduced.

Proponents of these bills have argued they are necessary for safety and have always been strong on the position that these bills do not affect firearms already owned. In fact, they argue SB25-003 is even giving a pathway to purchase, something that they argue is a compromise as well.

But what happens in a year, or two years, or more, after this bill has been passed and another regrettable mass casualty event occurs? Will that pathway to purchase be found to be too open and new legislation will be proposed to remove it? And if another mass shooting occurs after that, will it be determined that the firearms in ownership simply must be turned in and destroyed?

SB25-003 was initially propped up on the back of the failure of the magazine law from 2013 to be enforced. Those that support SB25-003 and bills like it have shown no historical evidence that they will not decide to introduce more and more restrictive legislation. It is argued that the semiautomatic firearms in this bill are unusual and dangerous, and argument made for the significantly less restrictive assault weapon ban of 1994, and the attempted assault weapon bans in Colorado, both of which are less restrictive than the bill in front of us today.

If the side of gun control has consistently shown that they are always willing to move the goal posts to get increasingly without giving anything in return, why should any reasonable opponent not oppose any and all requests from them? This has created an issue for gun control proponents, as they are now faced with opposition that is not willing to compromise or concede anything further. An opposition that is ready and willing to push back with legal battles that will be expensive and time consuming for the state forced to defend them. Legal battles that can lead to an overturn of those laws and more.

I do believe that the Second Amendment is violated by laws like these, and that it serves as a final failsafe for our country against attacks from within and without. I believe that we have a universal right to self-defense, and what people choose to use for that is a personal decision that can only be made by the individual based on their specific situation. I will not make arguments in this letter for or against the gun laws we have, because that is not germane to my central argument.

The issue this bill has goes far beyond its efficacy or its constitutionality. It is the fact that those who fight for it will never continue taking and will never be satisfied. They will also never look for another solution. I do not believe there is some shadow cabal trying to disarm the American people so that they can do something horrible; I think that horrible things are easier to

do to unarmed people, but do not think some grand strategist is trying to do this. I think people genuinely want to make our world brighter and safer. I stand behind that sentiment, but not at the cost of our rights. Not when those asking for tiny parts of those rights never stop and never seem satisfied.

3/13/2025

Colorado State Senate

Finance Committee

Re SB 03

I am writing to submit testimony against, and request your “No” vote on SB 03 The Semi-Auto Firearm Ban and Gun Owner Registry. This Bill imposes unconstitutional limits and burdens on my and my fellow citizens rights to keep and bear reasonable firearms for both defense and hunting in the State of Colorado. This Bill has no demonstrated protections against criminal acts. Look no further than Aurora where nationally televised news broadcast illegally present gang members from TdA carrying weapons to take over an apartment complex. They had no right to carry such weapons, yet they did. The simple fact is, criminals do not care about such laws as SB 03.

As an additional example, look to our Southern neighbor, Mexico, which imposes draconian limits on firearm ownership, except for the most wealthy citizens. Has the average Mexican citizen benefited from a safer environment? No sane person would say “Yes”.

I strongly urge a vote “No” against this Bill and suggest instead focusing on enforcing existing legislation against gun crimes.

John Vikupitz

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Colorado Springs, CO 80921

A Firearm-Centric Analysis of the Impact of Assault Weapons Bans and Ramifications for Colorado SB25-003

Author: Lawrence Desjardin, Steamboat Springs, CO

Colorado SB25-003 is a bill under consideration designed to address gun safety issues by restricting the sale of certain semiautomatic rifles and pistols, coupled with prohibition against possessing magazines containing over 15 rounds. As of the time of this analysis, SB23-003 had passed the Colorado Senate with numerous amendments.

This analysis looks at the potential number of lives saved or lost due to the semiautomatic rifle restrictions included in the bill. It uses a firearm-centric technique that assesses the dangerousness of weapon types due to historical death rates associated with each type, and then calculates the number of lives saved or lost based on the new portfolio of total guns in circulation and their types. In many ways this is a formal treatment of the “It’s the guns!” paradigm that places the cause of gun deaths to the number and type of guns in circulation in the civilian market. This analysis is not an endorsement of the “It’s the guns!” paradigm, but is an analysis assuming the paradigm is correct.

To perform this analysis, we obtained publicly available sources of data on firearm homicides and suicides, the type of weapon used for each, and the number of such weapons in circulation. We also used data from the University of Chicago that modeled gun-buyer behavior when faced with an “assault weapon” ban to model substitution effects. Since there is no standard definition for an assault weapon, we will use the term MSR (modern sporting rifle) as describing a chassis-based semiautomatic rifle with a detachable magazine, which is often also referred to as a “military style” semiautomatic rifle. This definition is very close to the type of rifles restricted in SB25-003.

The first phase of the analysis is to look at nationwide statistics of gun-related deaths and how those deaths would change due to an MSR-ban. From this we will gain insight to scale the impacts to Colorado, and the specifics of SB25-003.

Estimating the number of firearms by type in the United States

There is no formal database recording the number of firearms currently in circulation and use in the United States. We used data from the NSSF (National Shooting Sports Foundation), The Trace (a publication reporting on gun violence), and a study “The Number and Type of Private Firearms in the United States” published in the ANNALS of the American Academy of Political Science (Berrigan et al). The range of total firearms in the US range from 326M in 2019 (Berrigan et al) to 473.2M in 2021 (NSSF). The Trace reported an intermediate number of 392M in 2023, lower than the NSSF estimate largely due to the Trace’s estimate of a 1% retirement rate of firearms each year. We chose to calibrate all data to 2023. The NSSF data and Berrigan et al included estimates of MSRs in circulation. We found that an estimate of 400M firearms in circulation in 2023 produced a close match between the Berrigan study and the NSSF estimate of the number of MSRs in circulation. NSSF reported 28.1M MSRs in 2021 while the Berrigan study when extrapolated to 400M firearms produced an estimate of 28.2M. For this reason we adopted the Berrigan study’s percentage breakout of firearms by type, but with an overall gunstock of 400M in 2023.

		Estimated Gun Stock 2019	Percentage of Total 2019/2023	Estimated Gun Stock 2023
All Firearms		325,974,664	100.0%	400,000,000
Handguns		145,027,290	44.5%	177,961,426
	Pistols	101,523,269	31.1%	124,578,110
	Revolvers	43,464,285	13.3%	53,334,556
Long Guns		180,607,793	55.4%	221,621,878
	Shotguns	65,384,747	20.1%	80,232,919
	Rifles	113,326,006	34.8%	139,061,122
	Bolt Action Rifles	46,804,445	14.4%	57,433,230
	Lever Action Rifles	16,811,381	5.2%	20,629,065
	Semiautomatic Military Rifle	22,993,363	7.1%	28,214,908
	Semiautomatic Hunting Rifle	22,313,687	6.8%	27,380,885

Figure 1 shows the 2019 data of gun stock by firearm type from Berrigan et al, then extrapolated to 2023. “Semiautomatic military rifle” is the category that matches most closely to the restricted semiautomatic rifles in SB25-003)

It should be noted that this analysis is not highly sensitive to the estimate of total firearms in circulation, but is more sensitive to the ratios of firearm types in circulation.

Estimating gun-related deaths by firearm type - homicides

We utilized FBI data posted on Statista to estimate the number of homicides due to firearm type. Our procedure was to identify the portions of homicides committed with differing firearm types, and then multiply by total number of firearm related homicides to get total deaths for each type. We used 2023 data, consistent with our estimate of gun stock. This method compensates for the fact that type of weapon used is underreported in the FBI database. We are assuming that homicides by gun type from districts that don't break out individual gun types roughly match those from districts that do report by type. Raw FBI data of homicide victims by weapon used for 2023 is shown below:

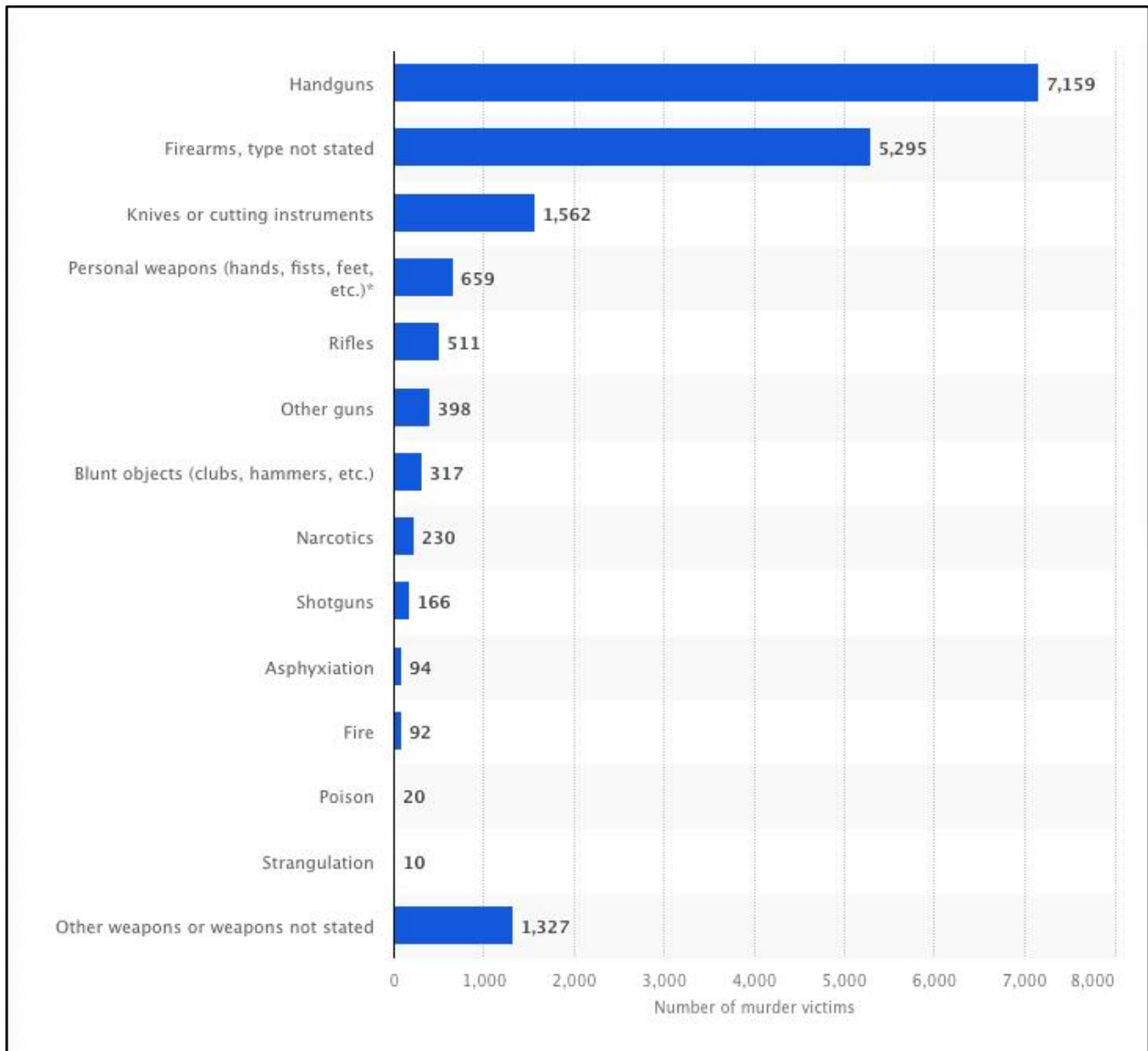


Figure 2 shows number of murder victims in the United States in 2023, by weapon used.

The FBI data reports a total of 7,836 deaths by specific firearm type in 2023, about 58% of the total 13,529 gun-related homicides reported the same year. The figure below shows total firearm related homicides by year.

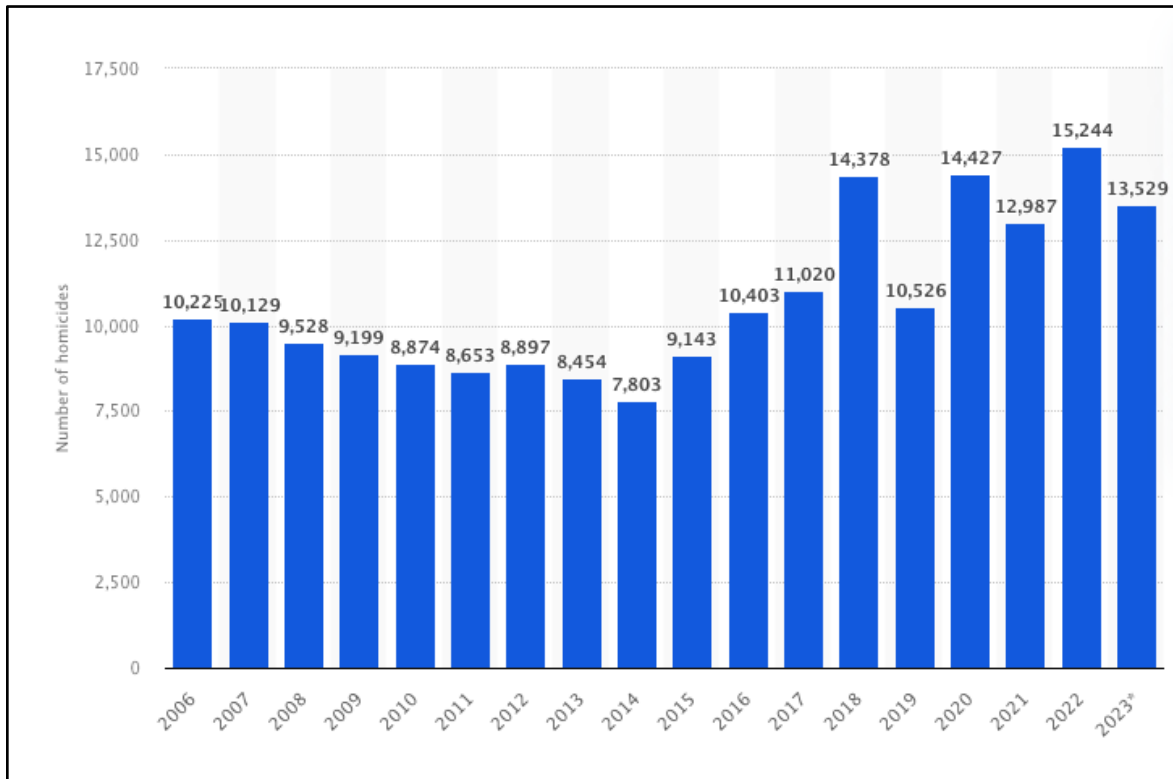


Figure 3 shows number of homicides by firearm in the United States from 2006 to 2023

Combining the two charts from above, we can estimate the total homicides by firearm type for 2023:

2023 data as reported by FBI			
	Murders by gun type	Percentage	Total for all murders
Handguns	7,159	91.4%	12,360
Rifles	511	6.5%	882
Shotguns	166	2.1%	287
Total	7,836	100.0%	13,529

Figure 4 shows murders by gun types for murders where gun type was reported, and then extrapolated to all firearm murders. Data via Statista, source is FBI.

Estimating gun-related deaths by firearm type – suicides

The data above includes all 2023 firearm homicides but does not include suicides. The following graph displayed on USA facts shows gun-related deaths by cause (homicide, suicide, accident). The data source is the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the National Center for Health Statistics.

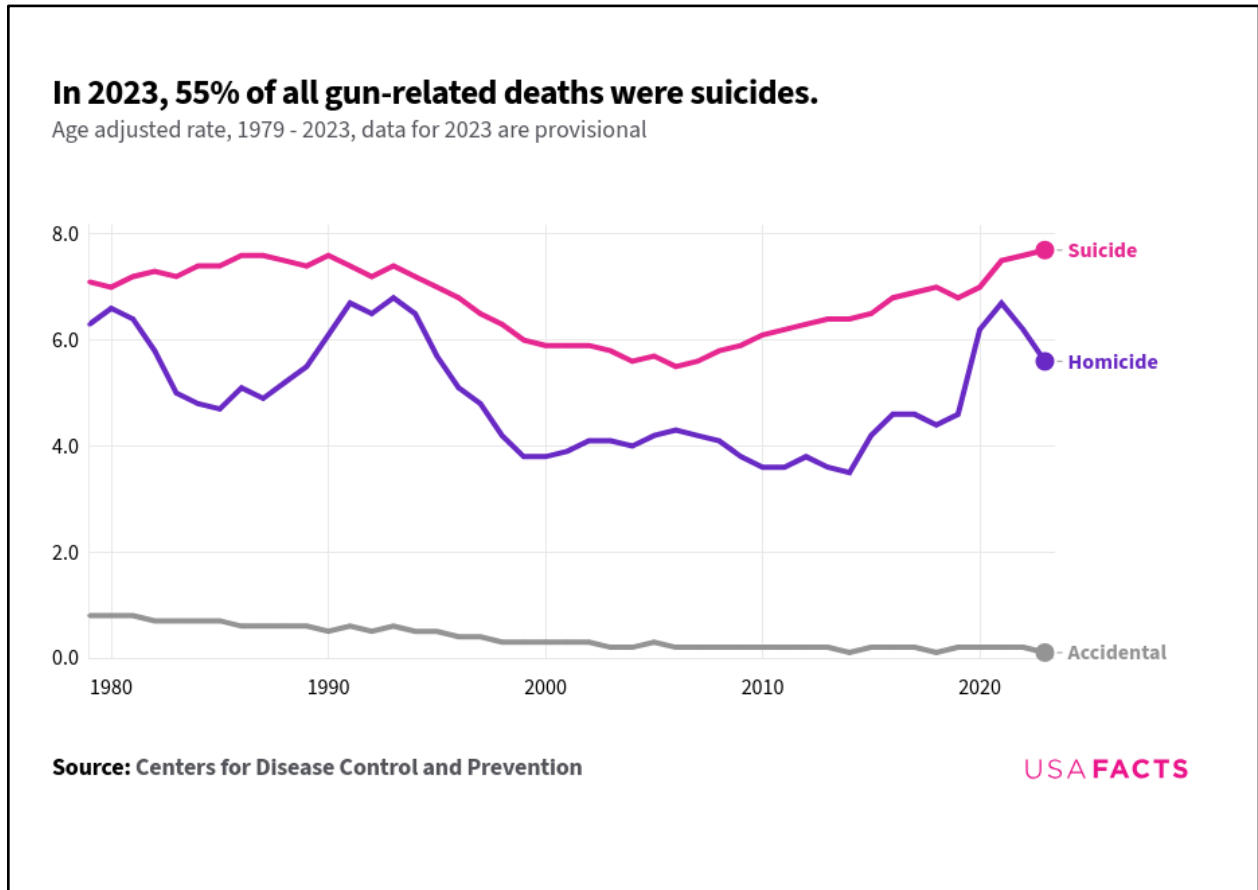


Figure 5 shows in the year 2023 the gun-related suicide rate was 7.7 per 100,000 while the gun-related homicide rate was 5.6 per 100,000.

The gun-related suicide rate of 7.7 per 100,000 in 2023 is 1.375 times that of the gun-related homicide rate of 5.6, or 37.5% higher. This equates to 18,602 suicides in 2023. [Hanlon et al \(2018\) reported](#) in their study of firearm suicides between 2005 and 2013 that 73% of all gun-related suicides were performed with handguns, with the remainder split 44%/56% between rifles and shotguns. They reported that the trend over that time was towards handguns being used more frequently. We used those percentages to complete the chart showing gun deaths by firearm type below.

2023 data as reported by FBI							
	Murders by		Total for	Gun Suicide	Gun Suicide	Gun Deaths	Gun Deaths
	gun type	Percentage	all murders	Percent	Total	Total	Percentage
Handguns	7,159	91.4%	12,360	73.0%	13,579	25,939	80.7%
Rifles	511	6.5%	882	11.9%	2,210	3,092	9.6%
Shotguns	166	2.1%	287	15.1%	2,813	3,100	9.6%
Total	7,836	100.0%	13,529	100.0%	18,602	32,131	100.0%

Figure 6 shows an estimate of gun death, including homicides and suicides, by gun type.

Estimating gun-related death rate by firearm type

We estimated the total number of deaths by firearm type in the previous sections for the year 2023. We also estimated the total number of each type of firearm in circulation for that same year. From this we can calculate a “dangerous” level to each firearm type by calculating the death rate per individual firearm for that firearm type. This is a way to model the “It’s the guns!” paradigm. We will use the units of death-per-million, or DPM, that results in deaths per 1 million guns of a given gun type per year. Below we calculate the DPM for each gun type for murders, suicides, and altogether:

	2023 Murder Data			2023 Suicide Data		2023 Total Data	
	Murders by gun type	Number of Guns	Deaths per Million	Suicide by Gun Type	Deaths per Million	Gun Deaths Total	Deaths per Million
Handguns	12,360	177,961,426	69.5	13,579	76.3	25,939	145.8
Rifles	882	139,061,122	6.3	2,210	15.9	3,092	22.2
Shotguns	287	80,232,919	3.6	2,813	35.1	3,100	38.6
Total	13,529	397,255,467	34.1	18,602	46.8	32,131	80.9

Figure 7 shows DPM (Deaths per Million) for various gun types when examining homicides, suicides and total deaths.

The data above includes rifles as a whole, but there is no breakout for MSRs, our semiautomatic rifles of interest. The FBI does not break out MSRs by themselves since the total rifle death rate is low when compared to handguns, and local law enforcement agencies reported only 511 homicides total for all rifle types, extrapolated to 882 for the unreported data. We previously estimated 28.2 million MSRs out of the 139 million rifles in circulation, or about 20.3% of the total. A straight estimation due solely to their market share (prevalence) would lead to 179 murders per year committed with MSRs. This is well above the totals we would expect solely due to well-publicized mass shootings, but shows the impact due to market prevalence. However, it could be argued that this number needs to be increased to match the increased prevalence of mass shootings performed with MSRs versus other rifle types. Bringing together a number of factors we chose a “bump up” of 50 deaths per year. This would include mass shootings where the perpetrator intentionally chose an MSR. We could argue for a lower or higher number based on a number of factors. We will inspect the sensitivity of this number in our error analysis section.

In order to calculate an updated murder DPM for MSRs we need to subtract 50 from the total rifle death toll of 882, and then assign the 50 incremental deaths to MSRs after the other 832 deaths are proportionally attribute to gun types by market share. Doing this results in new DPM where MSRs are at 7.8 DPM and non-MSR rifles are at 6.0 DPM.

	2023 Murder Data		
	Murders by gun type	Number of Guns	Deaths per Million
Handguns	12,360	177,961,426	69.5
Rifles	882	139,061,122	6.3
MSRs	219	28,214,908	7.8
Rifles, not MSRs	663	110,846,214	6.0
Shotguns	287	80,232,919	3.6
Total	13,529	397,255,467	34.1

Figure 8 shows the estimated death rate per firearm type after bumping MSR total deaths by 50.

The above chart doesn't include suicides. Since there is no advantage to using a semiautomatic rifle for suicides, our previous suicide estimate is unchanged, and suicide estimates using MSRs and non-MSR rifles are proportional to their prevalence.

This exercise expands Figure 8 to the following:

	2023 Murder Data			2023 Suicide Data		2023 Total Data	
	Murders by gun type	Number of Guns	Deaths per Million	Suicide by Gun Type	Deaths per Million	Gun Deaths Total	Deaths per Million
Handguns	12,360	177,961,426	69.5	13,579	76.3	25,939	145.8
Rifles	882	139,061,122	6.3	2,210	15.9	3,092	22.2
MSRs	219	28,214,908	7.8	448	15.9	667	23.7
Rifles, not MSRs	663	110,846,214	6.0	1,762	15.9	2,425	21.9
Shotguns	287	80,232,919	3.6	2,813	35.1	3,100	38.6
Total	13,529	397,255,467	34.1	18,602	46.8	32,131	80.9

Figure 9 shows estimated death rate for murders and suicides after bumping the MSR total deaths by 50.

Estimating gun-related deaths due to firearm policy changes, such as assault weapon bans

The above analysis brings a good baseline to today's situation. MSRs are estimated to be the cause of murder of 219 residents in the US in 2023, and up to 667 when suicides are included. This is approximately 2% of all gun-related deaths. As a counterfactual, we will now model what the death rates would be if the national assault weapon ban (AWB) of 1994 to 2004 was kept in place and all MSRs were eliminated. This experiment reveals some interesting impacts.

Assuming a perfect assault weapon ban, and all MSRs removed, the 219 deaths due to murder and 448 deaths due to suicide could be eliminated. This assumes the initiators did not substitute other weapon types. The substitution issue is critical. Faced with an MSR ban, what does a potential rifle purchaser do?

This exact scenario was analyzed by the University of Chicago that modeled gun buying behavior in the face of various gun safety policies, including bans, increased taxes, and buybacks. They did this by interviewing thousands of potential gun buyers. Their overall study was successful in predicting 2020 firearm market size and handgun market size. The study can be viewed here under the title of [Preferences for Firearms and Their Implications for Regulation](#).

The authors wrote, "Table 6 presents results of our counterfactual simulations. We find that the first order effect of an assault weapons ban is to shift purchases to handguns; in a counterfactual simulation without assault weapons, only 0.79% of consumers switch to the outside option. This finding highlights the potential pitfall of considering quantity regulations in a vacuum. Because handguns are involved in more crimes and deaths than assault weapons, banning assault weapons could potentially increase gun deaths, acting counter to the intention of the regulation."

Table 6 is shown below:

		Market Share (%)			Consumer Surplus Loss (\$)	
		Handgun	Long Gun	None	Est. 1	Est. 2
All	Assault Weapons Ban	57.25	22.47	20.27	-1,649	-1,507
	Handgun Ban	0	49.45	50.54	-7,405	-4,184
	+10% Prices Increase for All Guns	51.60	27.67	20.73	-51	-44
New Buyers	Assault Weapons Ban	61.27	17.28	21.45	-1,111	-946
	Handgun Ban	0	40.46	59.54	-8,452	-4,801
	+10% Price Increase for All Guns	56.39	21.4	22.21	-48	-40

Notes: Estimates 1 and 2 show the mean consumer surplus loss across individuals in our sample relative to the status quo. Estimate 1 calculates consumer surplus incorporating the logit draws (the logsum scaled by the inverse price coefficient); estimate 2 ignores the logit draws following but draws from the full posterior distribution of the preference parameters instead of using only their posterior means.

Figure 10 shows the consumer response to an assault weapon ban with only 21% of the buyers choosing to forego purchasing a gun. 61% purchased a handgun and 17% purchased a long gun.

We used the “All buyers” part of the table above, that results in 57.25% of potential MSR buyers purchasing a handgun instead, and 22.47% buying a long gun, which we modeled as a non-MSR rifle. 20.47% purchased no firearms.

Knowing there are an estimated 28.2M MSRs in circulation today, we calculated the counterfactual of a ban where 57.25% become handguns, and 22.47% become non-MSR rifles, examining the murder rates first. An MSR-ban eliminates the 28.2M MSRs but adds 16.15M handguns and 6.34M non-MSR rifles. Applying the DPM for handguns and non-MSR rifles from Figure 8 leads to incremental murder totals of 1,122 and 38 respectively for a total of 1,160 deaths due to the substitution guns. This compares unfavorably with the 219 lives expected to be saved from murder due to an MSR ban.

We repeated the exercise for suicides. We estimated 448 deaths by suicide for MSRs. Replacing the handguns and rifles purchased by substitution we find an incremental handgun suicide rate of 1,233 per year, rifle suicide rate of 101 per year, for a total of 1,333 incremental suicides due to substitution. This compares unfavorably to the 448 suicides avoided by the MSR ban.

The chart below is a good summary. Though an assault weapon ban may save 667 lives annually from murder and suicide, the substitute guns purchased add 2,493 lives lost annually, resulting in an annual net 1,826 loss of lives.

		2023 Lives Saved/Lost if Assault Weapons were eliminated		
		Murder	Suicide	Total
Proximate Lives Saved		219	448	667
Substitution Lives Lost		1,160	1,333	2,493
Total Incremental Lives Lost:		941	885	1,826

Figure 11 shows that the 667 lives estimated lost due to MSRs is exceeded by the substitute guns purchased, which total 2493 lives lost, exceeding the lives saved by 1,826.

The above counterfactual is a good way to see the deleterious impacts of moving gun buyers from MSRs to handguns and other rifles. It estimates an incremental 1,800 people would die a year from banning MSRs. This is due to handguns having a DPM nine times that of MSRs (69.5 vs. 7.8) and other rifles having a DPM only slightly less than MSRs (6.0 vs. 7.8).

To be clear, there is no national assault weapon ban. A better way to analyze the data is to see how many lives are lost for every life saved. This is shown in the chart below:

		2023 Lives Saved/Lost if Assault Weapons were eliminated		
		Murder	Suicide	Total
Proximate Lives Saved		219	448	667
Substitution Lives Lost		1,160	1,333	2,493
Total Incremental Lives Lost:		941	885	1,826
Lives lost per lives saved:		5.3	3.0	3.7

Figure 12 adds a row to Figure 11, showing how many lives lost per life saved.

This chart calculates that, with an assault weapon ban, 5.3 lives will be lost for every life saved from murder due to the substitution effect to more dangerous weapons.

Similarly, for every life saved from suicide, three more lives are lost to suicide due to the substitution effect.

Numerical Summary

- **400M guns in circulation in the US (2023)**
 - 178M Handguns
 - 80M Shotguns
 - 139M Rifles
 - 78M bolt & lever action rifles
 - 28.2M semiautomatic military style rifles (MSRs, Modern Sporting Rifles)
 - 27.3M semiautomatic hunting style rifles

- **13,529 Firearm Homicides in the US (2023)**
 - 12,360 performed with handguns
 - 287 performed with shotguns
 - 882 performed with rifles
 - 663 performed with non-MSR rifles
 - 219 performed by MSRs

- **DPM = annual Death Per Million guns. 2023 data**
- **All Guns = 34.1 DPM**
 - Handguns: 69.5 DPM
 - Shotguns: 3.6 DPM
 - Rifles: 6.3 DPM
 - Non-MSR Rifles: 6.0 DPM
 - MSRs: 7.8 DPM

- **Change of behavior of MSR-purchasers if a ban on MSRs:**
 - 57.25% purchase a handgun
 - 22.47% purchase a long gun, presumably a non-MSR rifle
 - 20.27% buy no substitute firearm

- **Homicides with and without an extension of 1994 Assault Weapon Ban**
 - Without an AWB: 219 MSR homicides
 - With an AWB: 1,160 homicides from substitute firearms
 - Net lives lost: 941
 - Lives Lost per Lives Saved with an AWB: 5.3

- **Suicides with and without an extension of 1994 Assault Weapon Ban**
 - Without an AWB: 448 MSR suicides
 - With an AWB: 1,333 suicides from substitute firearms
 - Net lives lost: 885
 - Lives Lost per Lives Saved with an AWB: 3.0

- **Total deaths with and without an extension of 1994 Assault Weapon Ban**
 - **Without an AWB: 667 MSR murders and suicides**
 - **With an AWB: 2,493 murders and suicides from substitute firearms**
 - **Net lives lost: 1826**
 - **Lives Lost per Lives Saved with an AWB: 3.7**

Error Sensitivity Analysis

The primary result of this analysis is that assault weapon bans lead to more gun deaths, not fewer, due to the substituted arms being used in murders and suicides much more frequently. How sensitive is this conclusion to errors or estimates in the data?

As we observed earlier in the paper, this analysis is not sensitive to the total number of firearms in circulation. The ratio of the firearm types determines net lives lost or saved when substitution buying effects are incorporated. This is critical for determining DPM (deaths per million guns). However, with MSR DPM at 7.8 and handgun DPM at 69.5, minor corrections of their respective prevalences will not change the overall conclusion.

We assumed a 50-death bump in homicides for MSRs beyond what their prevalence would indicate. We chose that as an average annual figure of highly publicized mass shootings using an MSR. How sensitive is this assumption to the conclusion? If the actual increase is zero (all murders are related to their prevalence within the rifle gun stock), then the DPM for MSRs matches that of other rifles at 6.3 DPM, and the conclusion is even more solid.

Alternatively, the upper limit of MSR murders is the total rifle murders. We modeled the counterfactual that all 882 rifle murders were committed with MSRs. Though this is unrealistic, we calculated the hypothetical death rate as 31.3 DPM, still well under the handgun rate of 69.5 DPM. With a 57.25% handgun substitution rate we still found that there would be approximately 240 incremental murders with an assault weapon ban than without, even with this assumption.

The analysis is predicated on the "It's the guns!" paradigm. Is this paradigm accurate? There is some doubt as Figure 3 shows homicides increasing and decreasing over time, while the gun stock is increasing monotonically. That said, handguns dominate murders and suicides regardless of the year. With a handgun murder rate 5.3 times that of MSRs, and a large handgun substitution effect when consumers face an MSR ban, the assumptions would have to change dramatically for an MSR ban to have a positive impact instead of net lives lost.

Observations, Conclusions, and Implications for SB25-003

This paper shows, using a gun-centric analysis, that a national ban of MSR's would lead to more gun deaths, not fewer. This is due to the substituting handguns for MSR's, which have a much higher death rate when it comes to both, murder and suicide.

One a granular level, every murder avoided by banning MSR's is coupled with 5.3 incremental murders due to the substituted guns. Every suicide avoided by banning MSR's is coupled with 3.0 incremental suicides due to the substituted guns.

We also observed that the death rate due to MSR's is not particularly large when compared to other rifles, but it is small when compared to handguns.

Specific firearm data is difficult to attain for Colorado, but a Colorado impact can be estimated by using population figures. As of July 2024 the population of Colorado was approximately 6 million, around 1.8% of the US total population of 335M. Prorating for population, the net loss of life due to an MSR ban would be about 33 per year: 12 lives saved against 45 new lives lost.

SB25-003 is not a complete ban on MSR's, as there is a pathway to purchase an MSR after an education requirement. However, to the extent that SB25-003 impedes purchases of MSR's, it will have a deleterious impact on gun safety. In order to avoid gun deaths, the impediments to purchasing an MSR should be minimized or eliminated. For every life believed to be saved from SB25-003, there will be 3.7 lost through murders and suicides.

Gun safety is a real issue. We should use best available science to form policies that decrease, not increase, the number of gun related deaths. This analysis attempts to do so.

References

Number and types of firearms in the United States

Firearm Production in the United States

Source: NSSF (National Shooting Sports Foundation)

Production and installed base data for Year 2021

Link: <https://www.nssf.org/articles/nssf-releases-most-recent-firearm-production-figures-2024/>

The Number and Type of Private Firearms in the United States

Source: The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science

Berrigan et al

Installed base (gun stock) of firearms by type for year 2019

Link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00027162231164855>

How Many Guns Are Circulating in the U.S.?

Source: The Trace

Installed base (gun stock) through Year 2023. Uses ATF data.

Link: <https://www.thetrace.org/2023/03/guns-america-data-atf-total/>

Gun deaths by firearm type

Number of murder victims in the United States in 2023, by weapon used

Source: Statista, FBI

Shows FBI data of 2023 homicides by weapon used

Link: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/195325/murder-victims-in-the-us-by-weapon-used/>

Number of homicides by firearm in the United States from 2006 to 2023

Source: Statista, FBI

Total firearm homicides by year

Link: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/249803/number-of-homicides-by-firearm-in-the-united-states/>

Percentage of homicides by firearm in the United States from 2006 to 2023

Source: Statista, FBI

Percentage of all homicides committed by firearms per year

Link: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/249783/percentage-of-homicides-by-firearm-in-the-united-states/>

How many people die from gun-related injuries in the US each month?

Source: USAFacts, CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), National Center for Health Statistics

Shows age-adjusted gun-related homicide and suicide rate per year

Link: <https://usafacts.org/answers/how-many-people-die-from-gun-related-injuries-in-the-us-each-month/country/united-states/>

Type of Firearm Used in Suicides: Findings From 13 States in the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2005-2015.

Source: Journal of Adolescent Health. Authors: Thomas J Hanlon, et al

Examined the type of firearm used in suicides

Link: [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(19\)30174-0/pdf](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(19)30174-0/pdf)

Preferences for Firearms and Their Implications for Regulation

Source: Becker Friedman Institute for Economics at University of Chicago

Authors: Sarah Moshary, Bradley T. Shapiro, and Sara Drango

The paper estimates consumer demand for firearms with the aim of evaluating the likely impacts of firearm regulations. It specifically examines the purchasing behavior of gun buyers when faced with an assault weapon ban.

Link: https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/BFI_WP_2022-115.pdf

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 25-003

Name: Kenneth Lewis

City/County of Residence: Colorado Springs, CO

Date of Submission: 13 March 2025

Bill Number & Subject: SB 25-003 – Opposition to Semiautomatic Firearms Bill

Committee Name: House Finance Committee

Thank you, Chairman Snyder, Vice Chair Joseph, and members of the House Finance Committee for the opportunity to submit my testimony today.

My name is Ken Lewis, and I am a 20-year military veteran, a former Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician, a concealed carry permit holder, and a parent of two young children. I reside in Colorado Springs and am submitting my testimony in strong opposition to SB 25-003. Like all of you, I share a deep concern for the safety of our communities and the importance of policies that effectively reduce violent crime. It is from this shared concern and commitment that I present my opposition to this bill.

As a parent, I take firearm safety and responsibility seriously. I actively teach my children about firearm safety, ensuring they understand the importance of responsible gun ownership and safe handling. SB 25-003 does not promote responsible ownership; it creates unnecessary barriers for parents like myself, who prioritize both firearm safety and personal protection.

Like many parents, my top priority is protecting my family. SB 25-003 disproportionately impacts law-abiding parents by restricting access to firearms that are essential for home defense. For instance, the additional training and permit requirements could delay our ability to acquire a firearm for home defense in a timely manner. Criminals will not follow these laws, but responsible citizens will bear the burden.

While I respect the intent behind SB 25-003, I am deeply concerned that it does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, it places unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens, veterans, and responsible firearm owners while failing to prevent criminals from obtaining illegal weapons.

We all share a common goal: reducing violent crime and ensuring public safety. However, I respectfully urge this committee to consider the unintended consequences of SB 25-003 and why an alternative approach, such as HB 25-1062, would be far more effective.

SB 25-003 Fails to Target Criminals

Crime Reduction Should Focus on Criminals—Not Law-Abiding Citizens

The FBI and law enforcement agencies confirm that rifles account for only 2–4% of firearm-related homicides, while illegally obtained handguns are used in the vast majority of gun crimes.

SB 25-003 does nothing to prevent criminals from accessing weapons but instead creates new barriers for responsible citizens.

Organized Crime Remains Untouched by SB 25-003

While SB 25-003 targets law-abiding gun owners, Colorado is facing an increase in violent crime from organized criminal groups like the Tren de Aragua (TDA) gang. Yet, this legislation does nothing to stop them. Criminal organizations do not follow firearm laws. Instead, this bill punishes legal gun owners while failing to disarm the individuals who pose the greatest danger to our communities.

Similar firearm restrictions failed to prevent past incidents like Columbine, the Aurora Theater shooting, and the Planned Parenthood attack. Criminals illegally obtained firearms, passed background checks, or had mental health histories that lawmakers failed to address. SB 25-003 does nothing to stop these types of crimes from occurring.

Furthermore, SB 25-003 removes key firearm safety features, such as detachable magazines, critical for clearing malfunctions and ensuring safe storage. Law enforcement, including El Paso County Sheriff Joseph Roybal, opposes SB 25-003 because it ignores crime data and instead restricts law-abiding individuals.

SB 25-003 Increases Costs for Law-Abiding Gun Owners

More Fees, More Paperwork—No Increase in Safety

SB 25-003 creates multiple financial barriers for legal firearm owners, including:

1. The 6.5% excise tax on firearms and ammunition (Proposition KK)
2. Mandatory training costs for both concealed carry and semi-auto firearm purchases
3. Additional permit fees, background check costs, and government oversight fees

These cumulative costs create an unfair financial barrier for law-abiding citizens, particularly for low-income residents, veterans, and responsible gun owners who rely on personal training to maintain proficiency. Criminals, however, will continue obtaining firearms illegally at no cost.

SB 25-003 is a Backdoor Firearm Registry

Tracking Legal Firearm Owners is a Slippery Slope

While Colorado does not have an official firearm registry, SB 25-003 effectively establishes one through its training and permitting process. By requiring law-abiding citizens to complete government-approved training before purchasing a firearm, the state will now have a list of individuals who have undergone firearm training—creating a roadmap to identifying gun owners.

Government Databases of Gun Owners Have Historically Led to Further Restrictions

This de facto registry raises serious privacy and constitutional concerns. Historically, firearm registries have preceded further firearm restrictions. While SB 25-003 may not explicitly list firearm purchases, it tracks individuals who seek approval to buy certain semiautomatic firearms—effectively creating a government-controlled list of potential gun owners. This functionally serves as a registry and directly contradicts Colorado's long-standing prohibition on firearm registration.

SB 25-003 Conflicts with HB 24-1174

New Restrictions Add Cost & Complexity for Gun Owners

Colorado recently passed HB 24-1174, which significantly increased training and permit requirements for CCW holders—adding costs, time, and regulatory barriers for lawful gun owners. Despite no evidence that these measures reduce crime, SB 25-003 now piles on even more training, permits, and fees.

These policies create a compounding effect, forcing responsible gun owners to repeatedly complete multiple training programs, pay additional fees, and comply with overlapping mandates to exercise their constitutional rights. HB 24-1174's CCW training requirements do not satisfy SB 25-003's firearm safety mandates, meaning even those who have already demonstrated proficiency must complete another government-mandated course at additional cost.

This is not about public safety but about making lawful firearm ownership increasingly expensive and bureaucratic. SB 25-003 creates excessive financial and logistical burdens on responsible gun owners while doing nothing to prevent violent offenders from obtaining firearms illegally. Instead of imposing redundant and ineffective restrictions, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws and closing loopholes in the current system to target actual criminals rather than law-abiding citizens.

HB 24-1353: Another Financial Penalty on Legal Gun Owners

More Government Regulations, More Costs for Consumers

HB 24-1353, which has already been enacted, is yet another example of financial penalties imposed on legal gun owners. This law mandates that all firearm dealers obtain a state permit and a federal license, comply with additional state regulations, and complete state-mandated training.

Gun Prices Will Rise, and Small Retailers Will Struggle

These requirements increase compliance costs for dealers, which inevitably raise firearm prices for consumers—making legal gun ownership more expensive. Small retailers, in particular, may struggle to comply, further limiting access to firearms for law-abiding citizens, especially in rural communities.

HB 25-1062: A Smarter Approach to Firearm Crime Prevention

A Smarter Approach to Firearm Crime Prevention

Rather than imposing unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding gun owners through SB 25-003, I encourage this committee to support HB 25-1062, which directly addresses firearm-related crime by strengthening penalties for firearm theft.

Punish Criminals, Not Responsible Citizens

Under this bill, stealing a firearm becomes a Class 6 felony, regardless of the weapon's value, and for repeat offenders or cases involving multiple stolen firearms, the charge escalates to a Class 5 felony.

Unlike SB 25-003, which creates financial and regulatory burdens on responsible citizens, HB 25-1062 ensures that those who steal firearms are held accountable with felony charges.

Law enforcement agencies have long advocated for more substantial penalties for firearm theft, recognizing that illegally obtained firearms contribute significantly to violent crime. HB 25-1062 aligns with this approach, prioritizing criminal accountability rather than restricting the rights of lawful gun owners.

While HB 25-1062 is a step in the right direction, more must be done to address the root causes of gun violence. To effectively reduce crime, policymakers should focus on strengthening penalties for straw purchases and firearm trafficking to prevent illegal gun transfers, investing in mental health resources and community intervention programs to reduce firearm-related violence at its source, and enforcing existing laws rather than imposing new restrictions that primarily impact law-abiding citizens.

By shifting the focus toward criminal accountability and prevention rather than placing unnecessary burdens on responsible gun owners, Colorado can take a more effective and balanced approach to public safety.

Conclusion: Vote NO on SB 25-003

I urge this committee to consider a more effective and balanced approach to firearm safety. SB 25-003 does not reduce violent crime. Instead, it imposes unnecessary restrictions on responsible gun owners, disproportionately impacts veterans and low-income individuals, and creates an ineffective and costly regulatory system.

SB 25-003 does not reduce violent crime; it burdens responsible gun owners while ignoring real threats. Instead of imposing costly and ineffective restrictions, this committee should prioritize policies that hold criminals accountable, such as HB 25-1062.

Law-abiding citizens should not pay the price for failed policies that do nothing to prevent crime. I respectfully request that you vote NO on SB 25-003 and instead support legislation that directly addresses violent crime and firearm theft.

I respectfully request that you vote NO on SB 25-003 and instead support legislation that directly addresses the root causes of gun violence and targets criminals, such as HB 25-1062.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hunter Collins

3609 Austin Bluffs Pkwy
Ste 31-8
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
hunter@collins.cz
(626) 833-4335

March 14, 2025

House Finance Committee Colorado General Assembly 200 E. Colfax Avenue Denver, CO
80203

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 3 (SB25-003)

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding Senate Bill 3 (SB25-003) currently under consideration by your committee. After careful review of the bill's provisions, I believe several aspects of this legislation violate constitutional protections guaranteed under both the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article II, Section 13 of the Colorado Constitution, which protects the right of Colorado citizens to keep and bear arms.

The Supreme Court has consistently upheld that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms, with its most recent and significant clarification coming in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* (2022). In this landmark decision, the Court established a clear test for evaluating firearms regulations: any restriction must be consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation. The Court explicitly rejected means-end scrutiny approaches that had previously allowed governments to justify restrictions based on policy objectives.

Additionally, the Bruen decision reaffirmed the historical understanding that the Second Amendment protects arms that were of comparable type to those used by military forces and civilians alike. The Court recognized that throughout American history, there was significant overlap between military and civilian weaponry, with citizens commonly owning and using the same types of firearms available to organized armed forces. Following this historical reasoning, modern semi-automatic firearms would fall under Second Amendment protection as they represent the contemporary equivalent of what civilians historically possessed relative to military arms of their time.

SB25-003 appears to contravene the Bruen precedent in the following ways:

First, the bill imposes restrictions that lack sufficient historical analogues as required by Bruen. The Supreme Court made clear that modern gun laws must be judged by whether they are consistent with the Second Amendment's text and historical understanding, not by a government's assessment of their importance to public safety. The regulatory scheme proposed in SB25-003 goes well beyond anything that existed at the time of the founding or during the

19th century.

Second, Bruen specifically rejected the "two-step" approach that allowed governments to justify substantial burdens on Second Amendment rights through claims of important public safety objectives. SB25-003 appears to rely on precisely this rejected reasoning, proposing restrictions without establishing the necessary historical foundation required under the current constitutional framework.

While I recognize the committee's legitimate interest in addressing public safety concerns, constitutional rights must not be infringed upon in pursuit of these objectives. Any legislation must be narrowly tailored to address specific, documented issues while preserving constitutional protections.

Furthermore, as the Finance Committee, I urge you to consider the significant taxpayer expenditure that would result from the inevitable legal challenges to SB25-003. Given the clear constitutional standard established in Bruen, this legislation would likely face prolonged litigation through multiple court levels, only to ultimately be defeated when measured against the Supreme Court's ruling. These legal battles would consume substantial public resources that could otherwise be directed toward effective, constitutionally sound public safety measures. The recent history of similar legislation in other states being struck down by federal courts following the Bruen decision should serve as a cautionary example.

I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider these provisions and work toward solutions that both honor constitutional principles and address legitimate public safety concerns without burdening Colorado taxpayers with costly and ultimately unsuccessful legal defenses. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss alternative approaches that might better balance these important considerations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to the citizens of Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunter Collins

March 14th, 2025

To: House Finance Committee

Re: Testimony SB25-003

As currently imagined, a costly and redundant state database is required in the language within SB25-003. The goal of the bill appears to be firearms safety training and a background check for individuals who would purchase certain types of firearms – in this case a subset of long guns in hunting calibers.

The bill would have Colorado Parks and Wildlife actively initiate new “training programs”, databases, and employees to run the same. There is simply no need. Save the \$ 4 million. The database that is being suggested would be almost entirely duplicative of existing state information and requirements that already exist in Hunter’s safety and the State’s concealed carry weapons program.

Hunter safety is a multi-day guns safety course that is readily available. Additionally, the department already has the courses, trainers, and databases for such. If an individual passes hunter safety and wishes to buy a firearm, they must pass state and federal background checks before purchasing. They must present a hunter safety card to purchase a hunting license. It makes no sense to create redundancy in requiring another “card” program that essentially mirrors the same.

CPW has no expertise in this area. The longer 12-hour course requirement is clearly outside of CPW area of expertise. The requirements are similar to concealed carry handgun permit requirements. Again, raising the question – why are you considering an expenditure of state money and effort on near mirror programs?

You should eliminate any additional spending on this proposal. It inappropriately employs a state agency in a new area to do work that can be eliminated with discussions on current processes and efficiencies.

Nephi Cole
Government Relations-State Affairs
The National Shooting Sports Foundation

I write to express concern about SB 25-003, the evolution of its language, its primary and its secondary effects on the citizens of our beautiful state. I have lived in Colorado for 30 years. My wife and I raised our family here, we've both worked here, worked for several businesses, and started multiple businesses ourselves. A large reason we moved here in the 90's was the generally "purple" color of state politics and willingness of most Coloradans to cross political lines in order to all get along with a common eye to common sense.

The bill's language has evolved in a fashion that is both head-spinning and embarrassing for our legislators in both houses who continue to sponsor and support it. Changing the language so significantly and rapidly takes away from the assumed good faith in which the legislation was sponsored and the ability for Colorado constituents to follow what legislators are trying to accomplish. Aside from the content and effects, the process itself smacks of bad faith from nose to tail. I am truly embarrassed for anyone who supports this bill. Coloradans deserve better. All citizens deserve a fair study of its language.

The downstream effects of this bill's passing will damage Coloradans, the state's image, and the very faith in our system of government. Without picking apart details, I'll just list points to consider below:

Democrats, minorities, and in general, the left, are comprising a significant portion of new gun owners in Colorado. SB 25-003 makes it more difficult to exercise their right to bear arms. Normally, reducing or taking away a constitutional right requires due process. This bill does not allow due process. It requires a cumbersome process just to get to the baseline of exercising one's constitutional right. Supporters will lose votes, financial support, and legislative positions due to losing support from the constituents across both aisles.

For restricting rights without due process, we will see it at the Supreme Court someday, but only after spending countless taxpayer dollars for the process to get it there. Sometimes I think these blatantly unconstitutional bills are simply job security for the proponents who practice law and their colleagues who do the same.

In Colorado, generally, the more zealous gun restrictions started about 2013. Since 2013, annual homicides statewide have nearly tripled while the population only rose 13%. That's a 300% rise in homicides compared to a 13% rise in people. What exactly has the anti-gun lobby gained with these new laws? What do you expect to gain with more gun laws? History and statistics show these misguided "solutions" are not, in fact, solving anything.

I ask you to please withdraw support and vote no on this misguided, embarrassing, and blatantly unconstitutional bill. Thank you.

Euell Santistevan
Colorado, Born and Raised
Small Business owner
Self Defense Instructor

Thank you, committee members, for listening to me in opposition of SB-003. My apologies for not being able to be physically present. Please indulge me for 2 ½ minutes. Thank you.

There is not much I can say that hasn't been said already, but you need to think about this bill that ultimately only hurts the "law abiding" citizen. As testified by the County Sheriffs and many others.

As a full time, self-defense instructor, I teach people to use hand to hand and firearms.

Overall, we are a reactive society, not proactive. Most people don't seek help until it is too late, and they have become victims of violence. Quite a few of my students have experienced physical violence towards them and they come to me seeking a way to feel confident again and regain the ability to feel comfortable knowing they can defend themselves.

Colorado has Universal Background checks, firearm storage laws, laws on where and how we are allowed to carry firearms. Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws), 3-day waiting periods that is going curve gun violence according to you. Yet here we are after last year's introduction and passing of 8 new gun laws and sliding into another slue of gun laws during this session.

How many more laws do we need? How many more to feel comfortable? Do we continue to move the "goal posts" on what would make people feel safe? At what point do we start addressing real problems?

What are the bigger issues that we need to work on? How about 30,380 violent assaults that take place each year in Colorado? How about the 1 in 3 people that will be sexually assaulted during their lifetimes? Look around the room and count every 3rd person as a victim of some sort of assault that will happen to them.

Now think about how these same people will be able to protect themselves.

Passing SB-003 is not a winning proposition when it comes to the protection of the residents of Colorado. It is an assault in itself of how these men and women are able to protect themselves if that unfortunate day ever comes.

The cost, time and the burden of feeling safe again may take months and hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, for the most susceptible demographics of our society.

If you were an instructor like me, you would see the fear that someone has when they realize that calling 911 for help is just a cry for help. While the average response time for police is 11-15 minutes, they will still be with their attackers and the outcome will already have been determined by the time police arrive.

I ask that you vote no on SB003 for the sake of the safety and larger good of our citizens.

Mr. Chair and members of the House Finance Committee

My name is Larry Desjardin, from Steamboat Springs. I'm representing myself.

I have two key issues regarding SB25-003 that are finance and number related.

- 1) The bill assigns to CPW the task of creating the described safety classes and teaching them, without any funding. CPW is already overburdened with their present duties, and this is an unfunded mandate. This is either going to come out of parks or wildlife conservation, and is not related to either department's charter. If this is a public safety issue, the funding should come from departments or funds related to public safety and law enforcement. Being located in rural Colorado, I can already tell you that CPW personnel are spending an outsized amount of their time on wolves, an issue that will only grow as Colorado's wolf population grows from the current 25 to the targeted 200. Please do not defund parks or wildlife conservation for AR-15 training.

- 2) Some of the latest studies and evidence around gun violence indicates that "assault weapon" bans or restrictions actually lead to more gun deaths, not fewer. The University of Chicago in 2020 published a study on the behavior of potential gun purchasers in measuring the impacts of different gun safety policies. Most relevant, they stated...

"We find that the first order effect of an assault weapons ban is to shift purchases to handguns;" and then stated, "Because handguns are involved in more crimes and deaths than assault weapons, banning assault weapons could potentially increase gun deaths, acting counter to the intention of the regulation."

Indeed, in the analysis I attached for committee members, the latest 2023 data from the FBI, CDC, and other public sources calculates the impact of such bans. It found for every homicide by semiautomatic rifle prevented, 5.3 other lives were loss due to the increased number of handguns. Similarly, for every suicide avoided from a semiautomatic rifle, 3 more suicides occurred by the increased handgun prevalence. This is due to so-called assault weapons having an annual homicide rate of 7.8 deaths per million while handguns have a rate of 69 deaths per million. Nine times higher.

It is true that SB-3 is a restriction, not a total ban. But to the extent that SB-3 deters purchases of semiautomatic rifles, through costs or through time, such as the difficulty in getting firearm training here in rural Colorado, which is already an issue, it will lead to more Coloradans dying, not fewer. This is simply math and demonstrates that SB-3 will not achieve its primary goal of reducing Colorado gun deaths.

All of this implies that the Colorado legislature, and specifically the House Finance Committee, should reconsider SB-3. In this time of budget constraints, is it really worthwhile to pursue a new program that won't even achieve its primary objective of lowering gun deaths? If the Committee wishes to pursue this, I suggest explicitly funding the training classes and placing the ownership under a public safety agency.

Thank you for your service.

Regards,

Larry Desjardin

Steamboat Springs, CO

RE: SB25-003

Facing such a large budget deficit makes “creative” financing, as found in this bill, a poor economic decision. Right now is not the time to be buying Wimpy burgers (Popeyes buddy well known for saying “I’d gladly pay you Tuesday for a burger today.” He is sometimes described as; “frequently scam(ing) others due to his perpetual lack of money and lodging.” Colorado used to have a solid fiscal reputation that is no longer the case.

The 2024 Colorado Tax Profile & Expenditure Report Executive Summary leads off with this; “The foundation for creating effective public policy is data-driven decision making.” Agreed. This kind of legislature (SB25-003) is the antithesis to this foundation. It is a hodge-podge bill amended and amended and amended again to try and make it what; readable, sensible, passable? It is none of these things, is void of any kind of fiscal analysis and lacks any other kind of data to make it worthy of being referred to as ‘effective public policy.’

Please be a finance minded group and don’t agree to spend money; 1) we don’t have 2) we aren’t sure how much we are talking about and 3) is the definition or robbing Peter to pay Paul. Please be proper financial stewards and not political caricatures. Do not let this poorly crafted bill move forward.

Allowing spending to exceed revenues is how every household, business, state or nation allows itself to sink into the deficit abyss. This is playing out all across the nation. According to US News & World Report Colorado is number 36 of 50 in fiscal stability, bills like this is why. We have to quit spending like drunken sailors; letting a bill like this move forward is just fiscally irresponsible.

Langford Jordan Castle Rock, CO.

**Testimony in opposition to: SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid Fire
Devices**

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. According to the Fiscal Note, this bill, as written, requires a change in state statute to allow a raid on the Wildlife Cash Fund to provide a funding source to allow Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to administer the records system for this proposal.

The Wildlife Fund was specifically designed to benefit the animals and overall ecosystem of Colorado. We do not believe it is appropriate to misdirect these funds to support a measure whose constitutionality is questionable, at best. The plan also seems to hinge on the willingness of significant numbers of gun buyers to sign up for what amounts to a Firearms Owner Identification Card (FOID).

If firearms buyers do not embrace this potentially illegal registry of gun owners, the scheme may be underfunded. This could leave the Wildlife Fund and/or the General Fund holding the bag for the 18 FTE and other costs included in the bill. Considering that CPW already has a 120-day wait list for Hunter Safety Courses, the prospect of an extended waiting period for the training required by the bill to exercise an enumerated constitutional right will also be a deterrent to buyer participation in the expensive and complicated process.

Illinois has recently faced a legal challenge to their FOID Law. The proposal that is under consideration will undoubtedly be litigated, resulting in increased costs to Colorado Taxpayers to defend the measure.

The bill places an undue economic burden on economically-disadvantaged populations, who may not be able to afford the fees and time off work required to participate in the process outlined in the proposal. One Black Citizen, who testified against the measure compared the bill to the discriminatory "Jim Crow" laws that were passed in the South following the Civil War to discourage People of Color from exercising their civil rights. (These laws included poll taxes and restrictions against inexpensive firearms.)

We also believe the bill places an undue burden on already strained resources in Colorado Sheriffs' Offices. Finally, we do not think the September start-up requirement allows enough time for the development of the required educational and testing protocols and materials required by the bill.

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

There are those who agree with restricting the 2nd Amendment in the name of safety, so in the spirit of this latest bill, let's play a game involving the 1st Amendment, Freedom of Speech. The text of the first amendment is, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Back in the day, the rhyme went, "Sticks and stones can break our bones, but words can never hurt us," just don't hold true today. With those wise words in mind, let us begin.

Prior to exercising your right of free speech, you must apply to your local Sheriff for a Freedom of Speech Eligibility Card. You will submit to and pay for a background check to ensure you are eligible for this God-given right. This will run you about \$152.50, dependent upon the county you reside, and is non-refundable if the Colorado Bureau of Investigations rejects the check. Every five years you will need to request a new card for another \$63, or \$78 if you are late. The Sheriff must then populate the Speech Training and Safety Course Record System (STSCRS) with the recipient's information. It is promised this system will not be leveraged into a spoken word registry.

Then, assuming you receive your Freedom of Speech Eligibility Card, you must pass a Basic Speech Class, then an Extended Speech Class, and possibly the Speakers Safety Class, all to ensure you know how to speak safely. The instructor of these courses must verify through the STSCRS you hold a valid Freedom of Speech Eligibility Card. The instructor must also be approved by the Sheriff, the criteria for what makes a qualified instructor are not specified. Plus, there is a fee set by Parks and Wildlife, amount not specified in this bill but may increase over time, to maintain the actual and indirect costs of maintaining the STSCRS. The instructor of your courses must remit this fee which you pay for each course to the State of Colorado. How this payment will be remitted is unknown. Finally, if you pass these courses with a 90 or above, your instructor must update the STSCRS and you can begin speaking freely.

Oh, hold on, you have a three-day wait period before you can speak freely. The person(s), to whom you wish to exercise your rights, must initiate a national background check and verify your rights in the STSCRS. The wait period and steps must be performed each time you wish to speak freely.

Of course, you are restricted in the speech you may employ by the legislature, who gradually adds more restrictions to make us safer from ourselves. These restrictions will determine how much and what type of speech you may exercise. Violations of these statutes will result in a misdemeanor for the first offense, felony for any subsequent offenses.

Thank you for playing this game, and for your time. We all know this is parody because no legislature in these United States of America would break their promises or pass any laws which restrict our rights. Right?

David Scott

Dear Colorado House Finance Committee Members:

As Colorado legislature continues to attack the law-abiding citizens of the State of Colorado, we may grow weary but stand absolute in our fight against your tyranny that you continue to try to inflict upon us. Each year I either testify in person, by Zoom or by letter to voice my adamant opposition to this governments' assault on my rights and the law-abiding gun owners, hunters, sportsmen and women, and the next generation of them all. Yet for years you placated to the rioters, the invaders and the lawless that continued to rain havoc down on our citizens. Thankfully that ended January 20, 2025. However, you continue to try to disarm the innocent in favor of taxing us, registering us and making us into the criminals, when we have done nothing wrong. That is all this Bill SB25-003 is, a tax and registration of legal gun owners to give us the "privilege" to own our own guns instead of the Rights that have been given to us by the US Constitutions Second Amendment and our Colorado State's Bill of Rights.

I cannot believe you have the audacity to believe that you can legislate compliance from criminals! I cannot believe that you think that this will do anything to deter crime and mass deaths in any way!! All this bill will do is the following:

1. Cause a statewide gun registry of legal gun owners-Why do you want that? (Sounds like Nazi Germany to me)
2. Cause legal gun owners to pay an additional expense aka tax to own the guns they already own. (Unconstitutional)
3. Cause a mass exodus of Colorado natives and near natives to neighboring states with Second Amendment protections!
4. Bankrupt thousands of business owners in our communities that are gun related or gun adjacent!
5. Bankrupt the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
6. Bankrupt the hospitality, tours guides, outfitters and hunting related businesses in our state.
7. Cause our wildlife to be completely overpopulated, which will then cause our tundra's, grasslands and other local ecosystems to be decimated.
8. Bankrupt our state from all of the legal challenges that are going to come out of this.
9. Embarrass Colorado like California is being embarrassed now.

As a 4th generation Coloradan, a law-abiding citizen of this state, a business owner, mother of a Deer Creek MS school shooting student, mother of a teacher that was in a school shooting, and conceal carry holder, the answer is not to take guns away from us, the answer is to allow us to carry everywhere! I guarantee I or someone like me, are the people you want standing or sitting

next to you when someone comes in shooting. Taking my guns away only makes us sitting ducks, victims, vulnerable and helpless. You are punishing the wrong people with this bill and in fact any gun legislation because until you start keeping the criminals behind bars and enforcing the laws we currently have nothing will change!! Until you allow the police to enforce the laws without retaliation against them, nothing will change. Until you punish those who are breaking the law, the laws will be looked upon as nothing! YOU CANNOT LEGISLATE COMPLIANCE BY CRIMINALS, ALL YOU CAN DO IS ENFORCE THE LAWS! ALL YOU ARE DOING IS MAKING CRIMINALS OUT OF THE INNOCENT WITH THIS BILL!!

THEREFORE, I AM DEMANDING AS A FOURTH GENERATION COLORADOAN, NOT ASKING, THAT YOU THROW THIS BILL OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL BECAUSE THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TAX AND REGISTRATION BILL THAT TURNS LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS INTO CRIMINALS IF THEY DO NOT COMPLY!

Sincerely,

Kelly Ashton

Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence

Written Testimony in Strong Support of SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

House Finance Committee Hearing, March 14, 2025

It should be noted that although the bill prohibits manufacturing, distributing, transferring, selling, or purchasing semiautomatic rifles or semiautomatic shotguns with a detachable magazine or gas-operated semiautomatic handguns with a detachable magazine, exceptions will be granted to eligible people who pass specified hunter education or firearm safety classes. For those who are ineligible or choose not to take these classes, the prohibition remains in effect.

Our reasons for strongly supporting SB25-003:

- With a fixed magazine, after emptying the magazine, the shooter must load each individual round into the firearm's magazine—a slower process that enables targeted victims to escape.
- Semi-automatic firearms of the types that this bill would prohibit can fire more and deadlier rounds over a shorter period. They are disproportionately used in public mass shootings, and are not suitable for hunting, sport shooting, or any purpose other than killing the maximum number of people in the minimum amount of time. They were originally intended and designed for the battlefield, not civilian life.
- In 2013, Colorado banned the sale of magazines over 15 rounds, but the ban is often not enforced.
- In mass shootings, the number of people shot is six times higher when a semiautomatic firearm is involved. One study found that semi-automatic weapons accounted for more than 85% of deaths in mass shootings.
<https://www.lwv.org/blog/assault-weapons-what-their-legality-andimpact#:~:text=Why%20a%20Federal%20Ban%20Matters,of%20deaths%20in%20mass%20shootings.>
- Colorado has experienced 61 mass shootings in the last 10 years with 328 people shot, resulting in 82 killed and 246 injured (Zeoli et al, 2022). Regardless of the setting or scale, all mass shootings impact the communities within which they occur and have long-lasting physical, mental, and emotional consequences. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-gun-violence-prevention-resource-bank/firearm-injury-and-death/mass-shootings>
- Rapid-fire devices enable semi-automatic firearms to function as fully automatic firearms, which are prohibited by federal and state laws. Prohibiting these devices is an important complement to the prohibition of detachable magazines. Both measures decrease the number of rounds that can be fired in a short period of time.

Good afternoon, Committee members;

My name is Kelly Ashton. I am 4th Generation Coloradan, multigenerational gun owner, a legal conceal carry permit holder, single woman, mother of a school shooting victim, mother of active shooter victim at civic center park, mother-in-law of a certified Gunsmith, and former victim of domestic violence. I am here to vehemently oppose SB25-003. As a mother of a school shooting victim at Deer Creek Middle School, I am very aware of the effects of school shootings on our children. In addition, my daughter was in Civic Center Park several years ago when an active shooter started shooting during a festival with thousands of people in Civic Center Park. Because of this, I am intimately aware of the importance of being a concealed carry gun owner and carrying everywhere I go. I have had a gun in my hand since I was 8 years old. I was trained from a young age how to handle firearms, clean, care for, and safety training. I was raised to respect the weapon, when and what the use of each type of firearm was for. I have been trained and used every type of weapon I own, and I am very aware of how and when to use it for protection. I have been in situations more than once where I was unable to carry my weapon with me and left in very dangerous situations.

You continue to try to blame the gun manufacturer, the reseller and the law-abiding citizen for the criminal acts of the lawless. The gun, regardless of the type, is completely innocent. It is an inanimate object. It cannot do any harm by itself and cannot do any more harm than a spoon or a fork in your kitchen drawer. The only way it can do any harm is in the hands of someone who is set out to do harm to someone else and that person will do it regardless of the type of weapon. It can be done with fertilizer, knives and even as we saw on New Year's Eve in New Orleans, a vehicle. You cannot stop the criminal by punishing the manufacturer, reseller or law-abiding gun owner. In fact, you cannot stop the criminal from owning and having access to all of these so-called "assault weapons" by passing SB25-003!! **The ONLY THING SB25-003 WILL DO IS KILL BUSINESS, KILL THE HUNTING INDUSTRY IN COLORADO AND LEAVE THE LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN VUNERABLE TO THOSE CRIMINALS WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR LAWS! YOU CANNOT LEGISLATE CRIMINALS INTO COMPLIANCE!**

So, what does SB25-003 achieve? Well first it achieves complete violation of my Second Amendment Rights under the US Constitution! It also violates our Colorado Constitution Bill of Rights, you might to read that!! It will also achieve something that is so egregious that you cannot even consider passing this bill. It will put the law-abiding citizen back into the 1800's against a much more sophisticated and dangerous enemy!! See when you outlaw the manufacture, trade, sell and transfer of 90% of all the type of guns made out there, you will effectively eliminate our way to protect ourselves in one generation. You will leave us with a single shot weapon up against an enemy with all of those weapons you banned. This does not deter crime this just leaves us all as victims against a tyrannical government, a foreign invader, or just a typical everyday criminal who would wish to do us harm!! Now with this new addition to the bill that would "allow" us to keep our guns if we take additional training is just smoke screen way of saying you are going to tax us for the "Right" to bear arms! Last year you passed a ridiculous law where you now require all Conceal Carry holders to take training every time their permit expires. Yes, that is yet another tax!! Tax, tax, tax me for my Rights! That is UNCONSTITUTIONAL and will end up before the Supreme Court no doubt!

So, to say it one last time, I cannot believe you are so blind to think that you can honestly legislate criminals into compliance. Every time you make a new gun law all it does is create more victims not less! All you have to look at are those cities with the tightest gun restrictions

like Chicago to see what that does! More gun violence and more victims! For you to also think that you have the right to take away my Rights given to me under the US Constitution and the Colorado State Constitution is baffling! Outlawing/banning any weapon with a removable magazine is going to destroy this state in every way! Businesses are going to go bankrupt or move! Hunters will not come to our state and will go to neighboring states that have more favorable gun laws! Then our wildlife population will soar and starve to death! Next our long-time citizens, like me who are 4th, 5th and 6th generations gone! What will be left? Keep taking away our rights and I think Colorado is doomed! Do you remember the 80s?

Sincerely,

Kelly Ashton

Committee members,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Proposed SB25-003 bill that is under the guise as a Magazine Loophole, however is an out-right Semi-Automatic Firearm ban, unless you are privileged. This bill would affect so many people in the state of Colorado and put their lives at risk & danger. California has tried something very similar to this bill, but the most pro common sense gun safety governor Jerry Brown vetoed the bill because it went too far. You are only wasting Colorado taxpayers money and time from the sure to come lawsuits to the use of our resources funding them. There are many safety concerns from this proposed bill, with permanently attaching a magazine to the firearm you now have loaded firearms everywhere. When testifying during the safe storage bill proposal the proponents argued adding another step by locking the firearm up adds another decision which would stop suicide or murder because of time added. Having a separated magazine allows owners to store their firearms separate from the ammo, thus putting an extra step in the process saving lives by having more unloaded firearms. This bill would affect the citizens who defend their homes, the people who participate in outdoor sporting, & hurt the revenue created from those out of state who like to hunt in our wonderful mountains. SB25-003 is also a very privileged bill with Jim Crow written all over it. Those who have money, time, and live in safer communities will be able to participate. While those who are minorities, live in unprivileged communities, and immigrants who will be hurt the most. This type of legislation has massive opposition from the citizens of Colorado. Oppose this bill or next time you are running for office the citizens of this state will find someone else who can do your job that will represent us. OPPOSE SB25-003.

The State of Colorado does not want a licensing scheme through CPW or the DNR. These licensing schemes have been ruled unconstitutional already in other courts around the United States. This type of Scheme will hurt the taxation that benefits our conservation & these outdoor organizations. Through things like the Pittman Robertson Act money is generated for conservation projects that help keep our outdoors clean and safe. SB25-003 would hurt this & severely create a gap when looking to see if our state should receive money for these projects from Federal programs. With looming budget cuts to federal programs like our National Forests we cannot afford to jeopardize our clean outdoors in this great State. Again, I urge you Oppose SB25-003.

Respectfully,

Benjamin O'Loughlin

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote in opposition to SB25-003. The language of the bill has been drafted so broadly that it effectively encompasses nearly all semiautomatic rifles and shotguns capable of accepting a detachable magazine and several semi-auto pistols. This includes many rifles and shotguns used for hunting. While firearms such as AR-15s and other semiautomatic rifles have been involved in past mass shootings, it is important to recognize that rifles and shotguns are statistically the least used in violent crimes. According to FBI crime data, handguns are far more frequently used in such incidents. Overgeneralizing and including a wide range of semi-automatic firearms in the proposed ban/ licensing scheme does not address the root causes of violence in our communities and violates the civil liberties of all law-abiding Coloradans. Please see the included table of Colorado murder weapon data, compiled from the FBI Uniform Crime Data Explorer for the years 2016-2023. The data clearly shows that rifles and shotguns, combined, account for approximately 3.8% of weapons used in murders, on average. If you notice blunt objects alone equal this amount and personal weapons (hands and feet) come close behind at 2.6%. Another data point to note is that the Colorado legislature, over the past 12 legislative sessions, have passed 20 gun laws. Each promising to lower crime. As we can see from our table below, this has not helped improve violent crime. In fact, the overall trend is worsening, not improving. This is significant since this empirically shows the 20 laws that have been passed over the last 12 sessions have had virtually no impact on the safety of Coloradans. Given this fact and clear data trend, is it not time to re-evaluate this course as legislators? In the scientific community it is often said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting a different result. Given the empirical data here, it's clear that the previous and current track being taken is not working and will continue to not work. Looking at the data honestly one must conclude that this bill is grossly misguided. Thank you for your time and efforts in keeping our state safe. I do hope and encourage you to take a different avenue to achieve that goal.

Colorado Murder Victims By Weapon - 2016 - 2023 (2024 data not available)
FBI Crime Data Explorer: <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/shr>

Weapon	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 %
Handgun	75	87	100	87	143	190	226	154	49.4%
Firearm - Type Not Stated	32	39	39	46	48	67	42	72	23.1%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	26	37	27	37	42	46	37	33	10.6%
Personal Weapons (hands, feet)	9	23	23	13	16	18	15	8	2.6%
Other	19	13	8	16	24	12	15	10	3.2%
Blunt Object	9	8	2	8	5	11	9	12	3.8%
Rifle	4	7	3	5	8	6	5	10	3.2%
Shotgun	4	4	8	4	1	2	7	0	0.0%
Asphyxiation	1	3	2	4	2	1	6	5	1.6%
Other Firearm	2	1	3	4	3	0	5	4	1.3%
Fire/Incendiary Device	1		2	0	6	2	3	1	0.3%
Drugs/Narcotics/Sleeping Pills	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0.6%
Poison	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3%
	184	222	217	227	298	356	372	312	

Sincerely,

David Swaschnig

Testimony Against Colorado Senate Bill 25-003

Submitted by Michael F. Haspil, Veteran; USAFA Graduate, Class of 1994; and Concealed Carry Permit Holder

March 10, 2025

Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

My name is Michael Haspil. I am a proud veteran of the United States military, a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, and a concealed carry permit holder here in Colorado. I have dedicated years to rigorous firearms training, not out of hobby, but out of necessity—a necessity born from experience. Overseas, in a non-combat situation, I found myself under attack, defenseless, unable to protect myself or those I loved. That helplessness is a scar I carry, and it's why I swore never to be in that position again. I chose Colorado as my home because I believed it was a place where freedom and responsibility were respected. But SB25-003 threatens that belief, and I urge you to reject this deeply flawed legislation.

I stand before you not as a partisan, but as a citizen who has seen the world's dangers and cherishes the rights that define us as Americans. The Second Amendment is not a privilege to be doled out by the state—it is a right, enshrined in our Constitution alongside freedom of speech and religion. Yet, SB25-003 treats it as a permission slip, one we must beg for through a labyrinth of fees, training, fingerprinting, and background checks. This isn't just unprecedented—it's unconstitutional. The only parallel is Illinois' Firearms Owner's Identification (FOID) card, which a federal court recently struck down as a violation of our rights. Colorado should not follow a failed, unlawful model.

A Veteran's Perspective: This Bill Undermines Our Rights

As someone who has served this nation, I know the value of preparedness. My training isn't a casual pastime—it's a commitment to safety and responsibility. I have submitted myself to extensive background checks and fingerprinting because I have willingly undertaken the responsibility of being a concealed carry permit holder, a duty I take extremely seriously. I support the idea of firearms education in principle, but SB25-003 twists that into a punitive tool. It demands law-abiding citizens—veterans, parents, hunters—submit to fingerprinting, extensive background checks, and a state-managed "Firearms Safety Course Eligibility Card" just to exercise a right we already possess. This conflates us with criminals, treating every Coloradan who wants to defend their home as a suspect. We don't need permission to speak freely or worship as we choose—why must we grovel for the Second Amendment?

A Caste System of Privilege

This bill's requirements—multiple classes, fees for training, fingerprint processing, and a sheriff-issued card—create a financial and logistical burden that disproportionately harms the less fortunate. For a single parent in Denver working two jobs, or a rural family in the mountains scraping by, the costs and time commitments are insurmountable. A basic four-hour course, a 12-hour extended course over two days, travel expenses, and fees all add up to a financial burden citizens should not have to endure—these are luxuries for the wealthy, not rights for all. SB25-003 doesn't just restrict firearms; it builds a caste system where only the privileged can defend themselves. That's not equality—it's elitism dressed up as safety.

A Bureaucratic Nightmare and Economic Blow

Let's talk practicality. This "license to buy" scheme hinges on a system that doesn't even exist yet. The classes are undefined, the instructors unverified, and the Firearms Training and Safety Course Record System is a blank slate as of today, March 10, 2025. With an effective date of September 1, 2025, the state has less than six months to build this from scratch. The fiscal note estimates 50,000 people annually will seek this card—50,000 background checks, 50,000 sets of fingerprints, 50,000 course completions. Sheriffs

and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will be swamped, creating backlogs that could stretch years. I've seen government bottlenecks overseas and here at home—trust me, this will be a disaster.

To demonstrate how woefully naïve, ignorant, and underestimated the figure of 50,000 prospective firearms owners is, here are some additional facts you may want to consider. A 2018 RAND Corporation study on state-level firearm ownership, estimated Colorado's household firearm ownership rate at around 34.3% in 2016. With an average household size of about 2.5 people (per Census data), this suggests roughly 800,000 households with firearms. Based on these proxies, Colorado likely has between 800,000 and 1.5 million firearm owners.

A better figure to examine would be the number of Form 4473 the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) processes in any given year. As you know, everyone who purchases a firearm, must submit a Form 4473. **Table 1** shows the last few years of CBI checks:

Table 1: CBI Checks by Year. *If we assume each check is associated with a single firearms purchase, we can see how ignorant and dishonest an estimate of 50,000 prospective firearms owners is. *Numbers are approximated from CBI data.*

2020	~487,000
2021	~407,000
2022	~366,000
2023	~375,000 (estimated)
2024	~350,000-400,000 (projected, partial year)

And the cost? The fiscal note pegs it at \$3.9 million in the first year alone, with ongoing expenses of \$2.8 million. Colorado can't afford this, especially when the bill's sponsors admit it's experimental—untested anywhere in the nation. Worse, it will gut the state's firearms industry. Dealers, facing revoked permits for even minor violations, will shutter. Jobs will vanish. Tax revenue will dry up. If the goal is to destroy an industry that supports thousands of Coloradans, this bill succeeds brilliantly. But at what cost to our economy and our rights?

No Safety Gains, Only Risks

Proponents claim this ban will reduce crime and enhance safety. The data says otherwise. Colorado's murder rate doubled from 2013 to 2022, despite 23 gun control laws passed in the last 12 years—20 in the last five alone. Rifles and shotguns, the bill's primary targets, account for less than 0.089 murders per 100,000 people—fewer than 10 deaths statewide. This isn't a solution; it's a distraction. Meanwhile, the bill's push for fixed magazines—exempting guns with epoxied or welded magazines of 15 rounds or less—creates a safety nightmare. Removable magazines are a cornerstone of safe firearm handling. Forcing users to shoot out rounds or disassemble loaded guns risks negligent discharges, especially in homes with children. This isn't safer—it's an accident waiting to happen.

A Blow to Rural Colorado and Vulnerable Communities

For rural and mountain communities, this bill is a gut punch. Families in places like Gunnison or Craig rely on semi-automatic firearms for hunting, predator control, and self-defense—often miles from the nearest sheriff's deputy. Requiring them to travel hours for undefined classes, pay fees they can't afford, and wait out backlogs is not just inconvenient—it's a threat to their way of life. Add in the bill's failure to accommodate people with disabilities—no provisions for those with learning challenges or physical limitations—and you have a law that punishes the vulnerable while pretending to protect them.

A Gun Registry in Disguise

Make no mistake: the Firearms Training and Safety Course Record System is a gun owner registry by another name. Every cardholder, every course completion, tracked by the state. This isn't about safety—

it's about surveillance. History shows registries lead to confiscation, and moderate Democrats should recoil at this overreach. Law-abiding citizens aren't the enemy here.

A Call to Reason

I've faced danger without a means to fight back. I never thought I'd have to worry about that in Colorado. SB25-003 doesn't just restrict guns—it restricts freedom, fairness, and common sense. It won't stop crime, but it will spark panic buying, overwhelm state agencies, and leave countless Coloradans defenseless. This bill says our rights don't matter.

Colorado's 1.9 million unaffiliated voters, representing nearly half the electorate, are increasingly fed up with partisan extremists on both sides of the aisle pushing divisive agendas like SB25-003, which threatens their constitutional rights and practical needs with an overreaching firearm ban. This bill's burdensome requirements and economic fallout will alienate these independent voices, who crave sensible, balanced governance over ideological overreach.

To moderate Democrats: you have a chance to stand for equity, practicality, and the Constitution. Reject SB25-003. Let's protect Colorado, not punish it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Haspil

Concerned Coloradan

Testimony to the Colorado House Finance Committee

Demand to Vote "No" on SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms Bill

Honorable Members of the Colorado House Finance Committee,

I send this testimony to you today to express my strong opposition to SB25-003, the Semiautomatic Firearms bill, and to urge you to cast a “no” vote on this bill. There are several compelling reasons why this bill must not be passed, as it poses significant legal, financial, and practical issues.

Violation of Constitutional Rights

This bill blatantly violates the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, which guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Enacting this bill would be an illegal action that infringes upon our fundamental rights as American citizens. Additionally, the bill contradicts the Colorado State Constitution, specifically Article 2, Section 13, which similarly protects the right to bear arms. By voting “yes,” you would be breaking the oath of office you have taken to uphold these constitutional provisions and disregarding the will of the majority of Colorado citizens who cherish their rights.

Financial Concerns

The financial mechanisms proposed in this bill are highly suspect, if not outright illegal. It appears to be a shell game being played with taxpayers' money by the governor. This bill's financial structure lacks transparency and accountability, raising serious concerns about its legitimacy and potential misuse of funds. Voting “no” is imperative to prevent such fiscal irresponsibility.

Practical and Safety Issues

The types of firearms mandated by this bill are exceedingly dangerous to handle and, in some cases, do not even exist at this time. Implementing guidelines for handling non-existent firearms is both impractical and unsafe.

Inadequacy of Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Colorado Parks & Wildlife lacks the expertise and funding to manage the system proposed by this bill. Introducing this responsibility would divert their focus from their

primary conservation and wildlife management duties, leading to inefficiencies and potential neglect of critical areas. Moreover, the sheriff departments across the state are already underfunded, understaffed, and overburdened. Adding the enforcement of this bill to their duties would stretch their resources thin and compromise public safety.

Impact on Disabled Individuals

The firearms introduced by this bill would be exceedingly difficult for disabled individuals to use effectively. This would unfairly disadvantage a segment of our population, making it harder for them to exercise their rights and potentially putting them at risk.

Affordability for Average Residents

The costs associated with this program would be prohibitively high for the average Coloradan. Implementing such an expensive system would place an undue financial burden on our citizens, further exacerbating economic inequalities.

Call for Responsible Governance

It is time for the lawmakers of this state to come together and fulfill their duties responsibly, instead of succumbing to the demands of wealthy special interests. You are elected to serve the citizens of Colorado, not the agendas of multimillionaires or high-dollar organizations. I have reached out to every representative, seeking their stance on this issue. Disappointingly, not one Democrat has responded, while every Republican has addressed my concerns.

If you vote “yes” on this bill, I will join forces with every other gun owner in this state to ensure that your political career is short-lived. We will also support all class action lawsuits against this unjust legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to vote "no" on SB25-003 for the sake of upholding our constitutional rights, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and protecting the welfare of all Colorado citizens.

Sincerely,

David Fraker