



January 2025

**TO:** Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee

**RE:** SB25-003 -- Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Dear Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are members of AAUW branches around Colorado.

AAUW has declared that gun violence is a public health crisis. Mass shootings have become commonplace, and our children now live with the expectation that they may be the next victims. The most preventable gun deaths are those from semiautomatic weapons, fired by people who intend to kill as many people as fast as possible.

SB003 prohibits knowingly manufacturing, distributing, transferring, selling, or purchasing a specified semiautomatic firearm. We believe SB003 is essential in making Coloradans safer from gun violence.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB003 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming a law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Su Ryden  
AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave. • Aurora, CO 80017  
303.898.5797  
[suryden25@gmail.com](mailto:suryden25@gmail.com)

*American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*



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Dear Honorable Senators of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003). Hearing from your constituents directly is a vital and imperative part of our democracy and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony before the committee.

While I recognize the importance of addressing public safety concerns and preventing gun violence is important to you all, I must express my strong opposition to this legislation. SB25-003 is an overreaching, over reacting measure that reads to gun owners as punishment for HB24-1292 not passing last year. This measure blatantly infringes on the constitutional rights of Colorado residents, will hurt more people than it seeks to aid, and risks being ineffective in achieving its stated goals.

As I have read the bill, I am gravely concerned with Section 24-31-120 in the bill. The firearms defined as "specified semiautomatic firearms" are so loosely defined, and the proposed legislation gives the Attorney General such overarching authority to arbitrarily designate semi-automatic firearms to be restricted later down the road, that section 24-31-120 alone makes this bill worth opposing. Banning commonly used semi-automatic firearms based on cosmetic features alone had no statistically significant effect on crime in the country when it was last implemented between 1993 and 2004. We've known this for years. Attempting to overcorrect by banning ALL semi-automatic firearms in the state, or at least giving the Attorney General arbitrary powers to do so is unwise and unconstitutional. And while legislation as bold as this has never been done before in the United States before, it will almost guarantee an uphill legal battle for the state of Colorado in the future.

Historical evidence also casts doubt on the efficacy of bans like SB25-003 in reducing gun violence. In 2005, the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Criminology penned a report assessing the effectiveness of the decade-long Assault Weapons Ban. They concluded, "Should it be renewed, the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement. AWs [assault weapons] were rarely used in gun crimes even before the ban. LCMs [large capacity magazines] are involved in a more substantial share of gun crimes, but it is not clear how often the outcomes of gun attacks depend on the ability of offenders to fire more than ten shots (the current magazine capacity limit) without reloading." The federal Assault Weapons Ban from 1994-2004 did not significantly reduce gun violence, and the report also found that "the ban targeted a relatively small number of weapons based on outward features or accessories that had little to do with the weapons' operation. Removing or modifying these features was sufficient to make the weapons legal, and in other respects, such as firing mechanism and ammunition, these firearms did not differ from other legal semiautomatic weapons." (Source: Jerry Lee Center of Criminology, "An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003.") So even IF this bill is amended to only include firearms with a more classic definition of an "assault weapon," it is wise to question it's continued ability, if passed, to reduce gun violence in Colorado.

Colorado already prohibits magazines exceeding 15 rounds under Section 18-12-302, rendering parts of SB25-003 redundant. Responsible gun owners who have undergone background checks,

training, and licensing to comply with existing regulations will bear the brunt of this legislation, as well as those aspiring to participate in faster, more competitive shooting sports or equip themselves with firearms that fit every definition of “in common use” for lawful purposes under protection of the second amendment.

I don't like lambasting legislation without providing potential solutions to the issue at hand. There are alternative approaches to reducing gun violence that would likely prove more effective while respecting the rights of citizens. Increasing funding for K-12 education, investing in resilient public transportation systems, reforming zoning codes and regulations to unlock more affordable and dense housing, and investing in more vocational training for our youth are some of the many options the state has that could make an impact on the ground overnight. Solutions like these would cut to the root causes of not just gun violence, but all types of violence in our state.

SB25-003 is a deeply flawed piece of legislation. While the desire to enhance public safety is commendable, this bill falls short of addressing the complex and multifaceted nature of gun violence and its root causes. Its broad restrictions on firearms in common use and accoutrements are guaranteed to make its way to court in a legal limbo that will cost the state dearly, and leave a significant cohort of Coloradans less safe and subject to tumultuous political winds that could change our rights overnight, should an Attorney General will it.

I urge you to reject SB25-003. Instead pursue alternative approaches that respect constitutional rights, and address the root causes of gun violence using my aforementioned suggestions more effectively. The issue of senseless gun violence is solvable while respecting citizen's constitutional rights. But the solution isn't us modeling ourselves off of nations like what Australia. I believe in a way to work together to create a safer and equitable Colorado without sacrificing the freedoms that have come to define our great state and America as a whole.

Thank you and your staff for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miles S. Adler

## Argument against SB25-003

This bill is an infringement on our US Constitution, 2nd Amendment right. Fixed magazines will not stop criminals from committing mass murder, it will only make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to use a firearm in defensive situations. In addition to self-defense, the 2nd amendment was created to defend against a tyrannical government. If this bill passes, it is one more step toward disarming the public.

Since 1900, there have been multiple examples of societal disarmaments resulting in millions of citizens being murdered by their own governments:

- **The Ottoman Empire – 1911** – Following disarmament, between 1915 and 1917 approximately 1.5 million Armenians (out of a total of 2.5 million) were murdered by their government.
- **Soviet Union – 1929** - Tens of millions of Soviet dissidents and others perceived as threats to the government were rounded up and either murdered or placed in labor camps or prisons and forced to work, sometimes to their deaths during Stalin's tenure.
- **China – 1935** - According to the authoritative "Black Book of Communism", an estimated 65 million Chinese died as a result of Mao's repeated, merciless attempts to create a new "socialist" China
- **Germany – 1938** - Adolf Hitler instituted gun control in 1938 and ordered the extermination of the Jewish people resulting in the death of approximately 13 million Jews and others from different unwanted minority groups.
- **Cambodia – 1956** – gun control was imposed in 1956 and following the withdraw of the US military from South Vietnam in 1975, the demonic Pol Pot, between 1975 and 1977, murdered as many as 1 million "educated" people in the "killing fields".
- **Israel – 2023** – Hamas massacre of Israeli civilians on Oct 7; most of the victims were unarmed and could not defend themselves against the well-armed Hamas terrorists resulting in nearly 1200 civilian deaths and 251 being taken hostage.

In summary, an estimated 160,000,000 to 200,000,000 people have been killed by their totalitarian governments around the world following public disarmament.

Those within our government continue to go after the tool, rather than the mental illness behind the action. If someone has made up their mind to commit mass murder, they will find a way. Again, the gun is only a tool. While "mass" shootings may get all the publicity, statistically, death by homicide is way down on America's "cause of death" list. As of 2023, the number of homicide deaths per capita in the US is approximately 5.7 in 100,000 which includes all types of methods, not just guns. Heart disease kills way more people than firearms at a rate of 167.2 per 100,000, yet I don't see a ban on fast food restaurants.

Final note. You say this is about public safety, but we all know the ultimate goal is to disarm the public. That is why I urge you to withdraw this unlawful attempt to infringe upon our 2nd Amendment right and destroy Colorado's gun industry! The 2nd amendment is clear... ***"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed"***. If this bill passes, it will most likely destroy Colorado's firearm industry resulting in lost jobs and a loss of tens of millions of dollars in business tax revenue for Colorado as well as the Federal Government. This bill must be killed!!



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**Senate Bill 25-003**

1 message

**Betty Steenbergen** <steenbergenjrbj@outlook.com>

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 8:46 AM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

There must be a better way to make Colorado safe. My rights as a Colorado citizen and a gun owner are very important to me. As a law abiding citizen, I ask that you understand that this law protects the criminals rather than those who want to use our firearms for protection and sport. Criminals will always find a way to kill people with vehicles, bombs and other means. Law abiding citizens who carry guns continue to protect. As a law abiding citizen with an elderly inform person under my care I value my right to protect myself and my home. It is important to me to own and train with a firearm that is safe and easy to use. Semi-automatic guns are good for self-protection as well as a valuable sport. I respectfully request you vote no on this bill.

Betty Steenbergen

Good afternoon, my name is Charlotte Meredith, I am a 14 year old and a freshman at East High School. I want to testify in support of SB25-003, because no one should have to live in fear of gun violence, whether at school, or in their community. I have seen firsthand how gun violence greatly impacts our communities. When my 12 year-old sister went into lockdown due to a gun threat, and my own school closed because of a shooting, gun violence had no longer become some distant concept. It was an unavoidable reality. Gun violence isn't just a statistic, it's a constant threat, one that affects far too many people every single day. It is imperative that we pass this bill, in order to make our schools and communities safer. SB25-003 is a critical step forward in addressing gun violence. When shooters have to reload, there are a few seconds that can drastically impact the outcome of such tragedies. A study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that attacks involving large-capacity magazines resulted in a 62% higher death toll compared to those without them. Also, by restricting rapid-fire devices, we have the chance to reduce the occurrence and lethality of mass shootings. I urge you to vote in favor of SB25-003. By doing so, you have the power to prevent senseless tragedies and create a safer future for all of us. This is a matter of protecting lives and upholding the safety of our communities. Thank you for your time and considering this important piece of legislation. I hope you'll stand with students, families, and communities across our state by supporting SB25-003.

Hi, my name is Lila DeMuth, I am a junior at Denver East High School. I am testifying in regards to the SB25-003 bill and the proposed ban on the sale and manufacture of certain military-style firearms that accept detachable high-capacity magazines. This bill is incredibly important in furthering (and helping ensure the effectiveness of) Colorado's ban on high-capacity magazines. Ending the use of and access to certain deadly weapons that accept detachable high-capacity magazines would be a vital step in lowering the risk of mass casualty in shootings and ultimately saving countless lives.

Results over a 27 year span from 1990-2017 show that attacks which involved high-capacity magazines resulted in a 62% higher mean average death toll. The incidence of high-fatality mass shootings in states without specific bans on these magazines was more than double the rate in states *with* the ban. While the Colorado legislature does currently include this ban, it is weak and difficult to enforce and, most importantly, weapons sold in the state are still compatible with them. Criminalizing the sale and purchase of these weapons would be extremely helpful in enforcing and solidifying the magazine ban.

These military-style weapons are responsible for some of the deadliest attacks in Colorado. I attend a school every day wherein my freshman year there were two shootings, multiple lockdowns, and a serious swatting incident, and where I know that any day, my life could easily be put in danger by someone with one of these weapons. That is a terrifying thought to live with and something that I have to think about often as I consider how I would respond in an active shooter situation, how I would defend myself, or how I would say goodbye to my loved ones. I joined Students Demand Action last year with the hope that my experience and advocacy would help me take control of my own fate when I felt the most powerless and scared I'd ever been.

This bill gives someone like me, a survivor of multiple gun violence events, some peace of mind that perhaps the severity and risk of shootings is somewhat lowered if the assailant does not have access to weapons that can hold more than 15 rounds and fire rapidly. These bills are only a step in the long journey to truly protecting and ensuring the safety of kids like me who don't want to have to think about what their last words would be over text while facing the imminent threat of a gun in the classroom, but they are a step nonetheless--and an important one. I hope you consider passing this bill from the perspective of the ones you would be protecting. Your consideration of my experience is greatly appreciated.

## Debunking the Myth that the Founders were not Aware of Repeating Arms

We sometimes hear that the self-loading, or semi-automatic firearm is a “new” invention. We also hear that the American Founders were ignorant of possible future developments in the firearms field, and that Second Amendment recognition of the individual right to armed self-defense should not include modern so-called, semi-automatic “assault weapons.”

(An “assault weapon,” by definition, is a select-fire military arm capable of full-auto or semi-auto fire, using a cartridge of intermediate power. A fully automatic firearm discharges more than one round with a single pull of the trigger. A semi-automatic, or self-loading arm, fires one round with one trigger pull.)

Repeating firearms were invented about 250 years before the American Revolution. The Founders were educated and well-read, yet they made no attempt to restrict self-loading arms, or to place them outside the protection of the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

In his article, “Firearms Technology and the Original Meaning of the Second Amendment,” Professor David Kopel cites a 10-shot matchlock arquebus from the period 1490-1530. (The matchlock action used a slow-burning fuse-like cord to ignite the powder to fire the gun. The arquebus, also called a hackbut, was a smooth-bore gun with a hook for placing over walls or similar structures to help absorb recoil.)

King Henry VIII of England (1491–1547) possessed a long gun with a revolving cylinder. Kopel references a wheel-lock pistol with a 15 round capacity manufactured in the Seventeenth Century. These firearms were expensive and difficult to make, but such guns clearly did exist, well before the time of the Founders.

Kopel also discusses a 1646 Danish flintlock with a 30-round magazine that was produced for the Danish and Dutch armies. John Pim of Boston demonstrated an eleven-round repeater in 1722. Another repeating flintlock, made by Joseph Belton of Philadelphia, prior to the American experiment in government by the people, could fire eight shots in three seconds. President Jefferson’s Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803) carried a powerful Austrian .46 caliber air rifle capable of firing at least 21 shots. This rifle could reportedly bring down an animal as large as an elk.

In *The Illustrated History of Pistols and Revolvers*, Major Frederick Myatt, a British author, mentions the Annely Flintlock Revolver, invented in the early 1700s. This firearm had an 8-round capacity. The Mortimer Repeating Pistol, developed about the time of the Constitutional Convention, fired seven shots without reloading.

In summary, given the historical evidence, the argument that the Founders could not have imagined semi-automatic firearms is simply insupportable. Modern firearms, as well as modern communications and printing equipment, deserve continuing US Constitutional protection.

Kopel, David, “Firearms Technology and the Original Meaning of the Second Amendment,” *The Volokh Conspiracy*, *The Washington Post*, 04-03-2017. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2017/04/03/firearms-technology-and-the-original-meaning-of-the-second-amendment/?utm\\_term=.11ed7b20f01d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2017/04/03/firearms-technology-and-the-original-meaning-of-the-second-amendment/?utm_term=.11ed7b20f01d)

Myatt, Major Frederick, (M. C.) *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Pistols and Revolvers*, Crescent Books, NY, NY, originally published by Salamander Books, London, England, 1980, pages 22-23.



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**Senate Bill 25-003**

1 message

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**Donald Downum** <dpdwnum@yahoo.com>

Sun, Jan 26, 2025 at 11:10 AM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

I am a decorated combat veteran of the U.S. Army. I find this proposed ban on semi-automatic firearms distasteful and UN-constitutional. It would be far better to imprison those who commit crimes than to punish those of us who are law abiding productive citizens of the United States of America and Colorado.

In conclusion this bill should be defeated and not re- introduced in any form!

SFC Donald V Downum

US Army (RET)

## Gun Control Research- Results of the 1994 “Assault Weapons Ban”

“After the 1994 Ban, ‘no discernible reduction in the lethality and injuriousness of gun violence’ was found.”

In 1997, criminology professors Chris Koper and Jeff Roth published a study for the National Institute of Justice on the 1994 ban of “Assault Weapons” and the resulting effect on crime. (“Assault weapon” is an incorrect term to use for the firearms that we affected by the ban. A real assault weapon is capable of fully automatic fire. That is, a pull of the trigger results in the repeated discharge of the firearm until the trigger is released or the gun runs out of ammunition. The firearms banned in 1994 were semi-automatic or self-loading firearms, requiring one pull of the trigger to fire a round).

In their 1997 study on the effectiveness of the 1994 ban, Koper and Roth concluded that, “the evidence is not strong enough for us to conclude that there was any meaningful effect (i.e., that the effect was different from zero).” Seven years later the two researchers published a follow up study with criminologist Dan Woods.

The 2004 study found that “we cannot clearly credit the ban with any of the nation’s recent drop in gun violence. And, indeed, there has been no discernible reduction in the lethality and injuriousness of gun violence.”

Mr. Lott also points out that in 2003, the last full year before the end of the 1994 ban; the US murder rate was 5.7 per 100,000 people, according to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report. By 2011, that rate had fallen to 4.7 per 100,000, in spite of the expiration of the 1994 Semi-automatic Firearms Ban. According to Mr. Lott, only 2.6% of all murders are committed with any type of rifle. This 2.6% figure would include single shot, lever action, pump action, and bolt action rifles, as well as semi-automatic or self-loading long guns.

Proponents of more gun control also advocate the registration of those firearms currently legally possessed by American citizens. Canada dropped its long gun registry, because it was extremely expensive to set up and maintain, and because Canadian law enforcement officers “could not provide a single example in which tracing was of more than peripheral importance in solving a gun murder.”

John Lott, Jr. is a former chief economist of the United States Sentencing Commission and the author of the book, *More Guns, less Crime,*” (University of Chicago Press, third edition, 2010).

Lott, John R. Jr., “Facts about Assault Weapons and Crime,” *Wall Street Journal*, NYC, NY, 01-18-13, page A-14.



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**(no subject)**

1 message

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**Heidi Koplín** <shilo1kc@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 11:33 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Senate Bill 25-0031

I am contacting you because I became aware of Senate Bill 25-0031.

I am against this bill. I live by myself and have a hand gun for protection and for shooting practice. It is a semi automatic pistol with a detachable magazine which is what this Senate Bill and Democrats want to ban.

I am against this bill and do not want my rights taken away.

Please vote against Senate Bill 25-0031.

Thank you.

Heidi Koplín

Cedaredge, CO



The Heller Foundation  
P.O. Box 15496  
Washington, D.C. 20003

January 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Mike Weissman  
Chair, Senate Committee on State, Veterans and Military Affairs  
Colorado State Capitol Complex, Old Supreme Court Building 352  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

### **Testimony Opposing Colorado SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices**

Dear Chairman Senator Mike Weissman, Vice-Chair Senator Tom Sullivan, Senator Matt Ball, Senator Byron Pelton, Senator Rod Pelton and distinguished members of the Colorado Senate Committee on State, Veterans and Military Affairs:

Dick Heller and The Heller Foundation, without reservation, **OPPOSE** Colorado SB25-003: 'Semi-Automatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices'. The Heller Foundation strongly encourages all elected officials and members of the Committee to vote '**no**' on this unconstitutional bill.

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First and foremost, I sincerely appreciate this Committee for affording me to be blessed with the privilege of representing both Dick Heller and The Heller Foundation at today's Committee Hearing. It is truly the honor of a lifetime to have the opportunity to submit official testimony (here today- in Colorado) in support of our God-given, Constitutionally-entrenched human right to self-defense affirmed in *District of Columbia vs Dick Heller* (2008) by the United States Supreme Court (i.e. Please see Justice Antonin Scalia's Majority Opinion in *Heller*) binding precedent, *inter alia*).

*District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) set binding precedent as it was the first time in history that the Second Amendment was under the microscope by the United States Supreme

Court. Noted by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, the *Heller* decision affirmed that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms- unconnected with service in a militia- for traditionally lawful purposes, such as within the home and for self-defense.

In fact, The Heller Foundation was founded immediately following the verdict in June, 2008 by Dick Heller, the plaintiff in the landmark United States Supreme Court decision, *District of Columbia vs Heller (2008)*. Endearingly, left-leaning 'Rolling Stone Magazine' rightfully named Dick Heller as: 'the [indisputable] Godfather of the Second Amendment' in an article published in June 2020. Heller is remarkably humble and very approachable in public- in fact, Dick prefers his friends call him 'Gun Dude' (yet although, 'The God Father of The Second Amendment' is a fitting nickname/title that Heller spent his entire life's work earning).

The Heller Foundation is a 501 c (3) non-profit, non-partisan educational organization headquartered in our nation's capitol, Washington, District of Columbia. The Heller Foundation is a grassroots movement of patriotic Americans hyper-focused on education, advocacy and fighting for our God-given, Constitutionally-entrenched, human right to bear arms in court systems across the country. Fundamentally, Dick's mission is life is to ensure the Second Amendment is defended and protected for generations to come. In fact, in his daily, relentless pursuit of holding the government accountable, Mr. Heller exclaims, "I have gotten so good at it, sometimes we just sue the government for sport. I am undefeated at the Supreme Court, too!" Moreover, Dick is also the Founder and Executive Director of 'The Heller Foundation' and serves as the Senior Policy Advisor (and part-time national spokesperson) at 'Gun Owners of America'.

*Prima facie*, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to Colorado SB25-003, which seeks to ban semiautomatic firearms and so-called "rapid-fire devices." While I recognize the importance of addressing 'gun violence', I respectfully submit that this legislation is unconstitutional, ineffective, and counterproductive to public safety. My opposition is grounded in the Second Amendment principles affirmed in *District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)* and reinforced by crime data, facts, studies and objective statistics ascertained by extensive research conducted by Dr. John R. Lott: a prestigious subject-matter expert on firearms and crime; premiere global economist and economic advisor; highly-decorated Adjunct Professor at multiple Ivy League Universities- including Yale, Penn and Stanford University; Founder and President of the widely-renowned 'Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC);' and, Senior Advisor to the United States Department of Justice under the first Trump Administration. Dr. Lott's 'Crime Prevention Research Center' is a 501c(3), non-profit organization focused on research and education, dedicated to providing an accurate, respected, objective and scientific evaluation using real-life case studies (and it's accompanying data therein) of both the costs and benefits of gun ownership in America.

The Heller Foundation opposes any and all infringements on our God-given, human right to bear arms. Therefore, we strongly oppose Colorado SB25-003 in its entirety, without reservation. Dick Heller's landmark 2008 United States Supreme Court Second Amendment decision, *D.C. vs Heller (2008)*, set the national standard of interpreting the Bills of Rights and the United States Constitution, bearing the original intent of the framers of that beloved document (read:

masterpiece). In *Heller*, the United States Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment protects the individual right to keep and bear arms, including those “in common use” for lawful purposes such as self-defense. Justice Scalia emphasized that the government may not ban firearms that are commonly owned by law-abiding citizens.

Correspondingly, these clearly defined ‘rights’ – especially the Second Amendment- are enforceable and are also non-negotiable. Dick Heller adds, “Not one inch!” America’s Founding Father’s wrote The Bill of Rights with the intended purpose of a strict interpretation so that the countries’ fundamental liberties, beliefs and freedoms -upon which it was founded on- remain the backbone of American exceptionalism.

Semiautomatic firearms, often mischaracterized as “assault weapons,” are among the most popular firearms in the United States. Millions of law-abiding Americans own semiautomatic rifles, including the AR-15, for purposes ranging from home defense to recreational shooting and hunting. Under *Heller*, any attempt to ban these ‘commonly owned’ firearms is unconstitutional and an infringement on the rights of Colorado’s citizens. Fortunately, the same ‘commonly used’ analysis holds true upon applying the later *Bruen* United States Supreme Court decision- which was decided over a decade after *D.C. vs Heller* (2008). As such, both the *Bruen* and *Heller* test of ‘common usage’ comply with the Second Amendment, affirming our position that SB25-003 is unconstitutional and infringes on our rights as citizens- and, therefore, The Heller Foundation opposes SB25-003 in both part and in whole, respectfully.

The Heller Foundation opposes Colorado SB25-003 because semiautomatic firearms are not the problem. In fact, semiautomatic firearms, regardless of the barrel’s length, are an inanimate object and are literally of incapable of committing a crime entirely on their own accord- guns are being used as a scapegoat by the proponents of this bill, instead of on America’s current mental health crisis. Developing transferrable skillsets through leading by example- as parents; disciplining children, actually ‘parenting’ misbehaving adolescents; raising children according to the Bible’s teaching; and/or in raising the standard of caregivers- i.e. relying heavily on ‘boring’ traditional, nuclear families that provide stability and structured, ‘old school’ conservative values. Only by ‘ripping off the band-aid’ and stop blaming guns for criminal behavior then- and only then- will the ‘real problem’ finally be addressed throughout the country.

Research by Dr. John Lott and the Crime Prevention Research Center ([www.crimeresearch.org](http://www.crimeresearch.org)) provides compelling evidence that banning semiautomatic firearms does not reduce violent crime or mass shootings. Key findings from Dr. Lott’s studies include, *inter alia*:

Mass shootings are rare and account for a small percentage of gun violence: According to CPRC data, mass public shootings account for less than 1% of all firearm-related deaths. Legislating against millions of law-abiding firearm owners in response to rare events is disproportionate and ineffective.

Assault weapon bans do not reduce crime: Dr. Lott’s research demonstrates that jurisdictions with bans on semiautomatic firearms or similar regulations have not seen statistically significant reductions in violent crime. For example, a Department of Justice study of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban found that the ban had little to no effect on gun crime rates.

Criminals do not typically use semiautomatic rifles: FBI data shows that handguns, not rifles, are overwhelmingly used in firearm-related crimes. In 2020, rifles of all types accounted for less than 3% of firearm homicides nationwide.

Law-abiding citizens use semiautomatic firearms for protection: Semiautomatic rifles are often used by law-abiding citizens for home defense due to their reliability, accuracy, and ease of use. In *Heller*, the Court emphasized the right to possess firearms “typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes,” which clearly applies to semiautomatic rifles.

As such, The Heller Foundation opposes SB25-003 as banning ‘rapid-fire devices’ targets lawful gun owners in -and traveling in from out-of-state- Colorado. The inclusion of “rapid-fire devices” in SB25-003, such as bump stocks or trigger modifications, further complicates the issue. These devices are already heavily regulated or banned under federal law, and the practical effect of this provision is to create redundant and unnecessary restrictions on (otherwise) lawful gun owners. Procedurally, the substance of SB25-003 is too ambiguous, leaving a lot of (potentially misguided) room for miscommunication or intentional redefining components of the bill later to fit a particular politician’s/organizations policy initiative at the time. There should be no ‘margin of error’ when defining -or here, omitting further clarification- a bill’s internal verbiage. Substantively, this bill is lacking in integrity and depth of concept.

Moreover, such measures are unlikely to have any measurable impact on public safety. Criminals rarely use rapid-fire devices, and focusing legislative efforts on these devices diverts resources from addressing the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health crises and illegal firearms trafficking. The Heller Foundation opposes SB25-003 because the ‘real solution’ can only be found through addressing the root causes of ‘violence.’ Therefore, in lieu of enacting unconstitutional bans that target law-abiding citizens, Colorado should focus on evidence-based solutions to reduce violence. Dr. Lott’s research ([www.crimeresearch.org](http://www.crimeresearch.org)) highlights several effective, solution-based approaches, *inter alia*:

Increased law enforcement resources: Ensuring police have the tools and personnel needed to combat illegal firearms trafficking and violent crime.

Enhanced background checks on prohibited persons: Strengthening enforcement of existing laws to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of criminals and individuals with dangerous histories.

Expanding concealed carry access: Dr. Lott’s research shows that jurisdictions with higher rates of concealed carry permits often experience lower rates of violent crime, as armed citizens deter criminals.

Additionally, The Heller Foundation opposes SB25-003 due to the multitude of unintended consequences resulting from general ‘bans’ and also the blanket-term ‘assault weapon bans’, respectively. Bans on semiautomatic firearms and related devices create unintended consequences that harm public safety include, but are not limited to the following:

Disarming law-abiding citizens: Bans leave law-abiding gun owners without access to effective tools for self-defense, particularly in rural areas where police response times are longer.

Black market proliferation: Prohibitions on commonly owned firearms and devices create opportunities for illegal markets, funneling firearms into criminal hands while leaving lawful citizens defenseless.

Colorado SB25-003 is a blatant move to circumvent, disenfranchise and viciously attack otherwise lawful, responsible gun owners across the state. The binding precedent set forth in the magnificent *D.C. vs Heller* (2008) United States Supreme Court decision- with the majority opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia- requires the government 'to comply' alongside and with the United States Constitution, with particular emphasis on the Second Amendment. Therefore, based off of that analysis, *supra*, Colorado SB25-003 is unconstitutional, unlawful and any supporters of this illegitimate bill are morally bankrupt.

In conclusion, Colorado SB25-003 is not only unconstitutional under the principles established in *Heller* but also fails to address the root causes of gun violence. Research by Dr. John Lott ([www.crimeresearch.org](http://www.crimeresearch.org)) and others clearly demonstrate that banning semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices does not reduce crime and unfairly targets law-abiding citizens who responsibly exercise their Second Amendment rights. Consequently, The Heller Foundation strongly urges this Committee to reject Colorado SB25-003 and, instead, pursue evidence-based solutions- as referenced earlier by Dr. John Lott, *supra*, that respect constitutional rights to effectively address their alleged 'public safety epidemic' concerns.

This legislation also violates the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in the United States Constitution and if passed, has a strong likelihood of being overturned by the highest court in the land- the United States Supreme Court.

As such, *The Heller Foundation* OPPOSES Colorado SB25-003: 'Semi-Automatic Firearms And Rapid-Fire Devices'.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kristie J. Tertel*

Kristie J. Tertel

National Director of Legislative Policy  
The Heller Foundation  
T: (610) 442- 4628  
W: [www.HellerFoundation.org](http://www.HellerFoundation.org)  
IG: @RealDickHeller/@TheHellerFoundation

because

As a legal gun owner and an immigrant from Germany, I have deep respect for the complexities of balancing public safety and personal freedoms in the United States.

My concern is this: while the bill aims to reduce gun violence, it may inadvertently leave law-abiding citizens defenseless in situations where criminals—who are not deterred by laws—possess high-powered firearms. The reality is that these individuals use illegally obtained weapons and operate in groups, particularly in home invasions or other violent crimes.

For example, imagine living in a neighborhood where safety is uncertain. Strangers break into homes, sometimes during the day, often carrying high-powered, illegally obtained weapons. Now imagine being at home with your family, facing 3 to 5 armed intruders, and only having access to a revolver or a small-capacity handgun. Would you feel confident in your ability to protect your loved ones in such a dire scenario?

I respect you, and know that you understand the importance of protecting one's family. I have a wife and a 12-year-old stepson whom I love dearly, and it terrifies me to think that I could be outmatched and unable to defend them because I was limited to firearms that are inadequate against the threats criminals pose.

As someone who grew up in Germany, I am familiar with a society where firearms are heavily restricted. In that environment, the only people with guns are law enforcement and criminal organizations like the Hell's Angels. However, here in the United States, the sheer number of illegal firearms in circulation creates a different reality. Criminals will continue to have access to semiautomatic weapons regardless of this bill—it is only law-abiding citizens who will be left at a disadvantage.

I want to be clear: I support efforts to reduce gun violence, including mass shootings. It's terrifying to be a parent and know that these tragedies can happen at any time. However, I believe we need a strategy that addresses the root of the problem: removing firearms from the hands of criminals. Until we can achieve that, disarming or limiting law-abiding citizens only puts families like mine—and yours—at greater risk.

I truly hope we can work together to find solutions that protect everyone, including law-abiding citizens, without leaving us vulnerable to criminals who do not follow the law

I thank the committee members and offer to answer any questions.

Senate State Affairs Committee

1/28/2025

SB25-003 should not make it out of this committee.

This proposed law will prevent current and future generations of Coloradans from acquiring reasonable means to protect themselves and their loved ones in an increasingly unstable civil environment. It is shameful that a legislative body would seek to diminish the self-reliance capabilities of its citizens. Voting yes for SB25-003 is a vote against law-abiding citizens of Colorado.

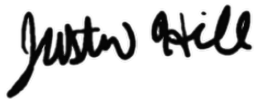
That the legislative body wants us to believe that preventing law-abiding Coloradans from acquiring certain common-use firearms will lead to a reduction in violent crime is insulting. Criminals, by definition, do not obey the laws that are already in place, and they will not obey the new ban on semi-automatic firearms which are the subject of SB25-003. Violent offenders are already prohibited from purchasing any firearm through the existing legal channels, yet they can acquire any firearm they want via illicit trade. Therefore, the proposed legislation will almost certainly ensure that criminals are better armed than good citizens.

Furthermore, if SB25-003 becomes law, it will be rightfully fought in court as a violation of the Second Amendment.

It is un-American to knowingly and willfully move forward legislation that is so blatantly unconstitutional. Certainly, the committee members understand the amount of State resources that will be wasted defending this legislation in court. Certainly, the committee members have constituents on both sides of the aisle that would prefer to see their tax dollars used for real benefit and not going into the pockets of a legal team defending this unconstitutional legislation.

For the reasons stated above, please do what is right for your fellow Coloradans and vote no on SB25-003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Justin Hill



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**Re: Registration Confirmation - Senate Local Government & Housing 01/30/2025  
01:30 PM (In Person)**

1 message

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**Jeannette Shepherd** <jeannette@jsrealtypro.com>  
To: LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Thu, Jan 30, 2025 at 6:36 AM

Dear Committee Chair

My deepest apologies for my inability to attend in person today. I do with great honor appreciate your time and the opportunity I was given. Should Tomorrow be an option- I will be in town and available.

Below is my written testimony Against this Bill :

Dear Committee Chair,

I am honored to be given the opportunity to testify on behalf of my fellow Americans today. As this bill is clearly affecting our 2nd Amendment rights. - in addition it is contradicting ,lacks continuity as well as detail.

First and foremost let's just get past all the over inflated verbiage.

We need step back and discuss -What is the purpose of this bill?

What issue is it trying to solve?

How this bill is stated -it is trying to limit rapid fire assault weapons to be in the hands of what is defined authorities. Who makes that call?

The general public has the right to self protection & recreation. The way this is written is it includes not only your standard armory weapons it will include pellet guns, paintball guns, & BB guns & 22 rifles. The weapons I just mentioned are used for recreation as well as protection.

So again I ask you to define the purpose of this Bill ?

Is it truly to enhance the safety of the public or is this for power over the general public.

Contradicting:

The bill clearly states

- The sale or transfer of an assault weapon to a licensed firearms dealer or gunsmith for the purposes of maintenance, repair, or modification, and the subsequent return of the assault weapon to the lawful owner;

\* Except that a person may transfer a specified semiautomatic firearm to an heir, an \*Individual \*residing in another state\*, or a Federally licensed firearm dealer.

The key here is is an individual in another state- if it can be transferred to any one in other state - how is that regulated for the safety of our citizens in Colorado- because as you know we Are not surrounded by water . Our borders are open so that does not provide any safety -so again I ask you what is the Purpose ?

Then in this same Bill

Where it is ok to sell or transfer to a Federally licensed firearm dealer.

It is unlawful - For OUR State dealers -

As it states -

“Unlawful to manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, or purchase of a specified semiautomatic firearm is a class 2 misdemeanor; except that a second or subsequent offense is a class 6 felony.

“ The department of revenue shall revoke the State firearms dealer permit of a dealer who unlawfully manufactures, distributes, transfers, sells, or purchases a specified semiautomatic firearm.”

Why would you pass a bill that impacts us “Colorado” economically- and restricts only our state dealers .

This bill clearly is targeting not only our 2nd Amendment rights but The state of Colorado and its citizens.

Do Not Pass this Bill - it unconstitutional & it's NOT Colorado!

Sincerely,

Jeannette Shepherd -Realtor

Colorado Born Native

970-815-4272

[Jeannette@jsrealtypro.com](mailto:Jeannette@jsrealtypro.com)

8420 18th St Dr, Greeley, CO 80634

On Fri, Jan 24, 2025 at 3:49 PM LCS Committees <[LCS\\_Committees@clics.ganotes.state.co.us](mailto:LCS_Committees@clics.ganotes.state.co.us)> wrote:

Thank you for registering to testify In Person at the following hearing:

Committee Name: Senate Local Government & Housing

Date Time: 01/30/2025 01:30 PM

Hearing Item: SB25-023

Room: SCR 357

Position on the Hearing Item: Against

#### **Committee Information**

The committee chair determines the order of testimony and may limit the time allotted for public testimony. In most cases, testimony is limited to 2 to 3 minutes per witness. Witnesses may be called to testify at any point during the hearing as determined by the chair.

Hearings may be delayed or rescheduled. Please check the House and Senate calendars posted on the General Assembly's website for updates. For committee changes that occur the day of a committee hearing, please visit the Legislative Council committees Twitter feed, @COLCSCommittees, for updates.

**You can track committee and floor action through this link:** <https://www.leg.state.co.us/public/display.nsf/index.html>

For additional information on testifying before a committee of the Colorado General Assembly, please read the

[memorandum](#) and [regulations for remote testimony](#).

Thank you

Colorado Legislative Council Staff



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**Assault weapons**

1 message

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**Jim Flint** <jmflint3@gmail.com>  
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 7:14 AM

Dear legislators,

I oppose the assault weapons ban rule. The law will simply be broken by criminals. Anyone can go out of state and buy a weapon that this bill is supposed to ban. Plus there are thousands of these weapons already in existence. It's already against the law to shoot somebody. This is the most common type of pistol used for self-defense. I carry one because I'm in an area where the state has released the wolves and I would be helpless against one if I didn't have a semi automatic pistol.

I think you should all focus your time on balancing the billion dollar short fall in the budget. Where are you going to get that money to balance the budget?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Jim Flint.



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**gun ban**

1 message

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**John O** <jaowen84@hotmail.com>

Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 11:36 AM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

Dear Legislative Tyrants,

please discontinue your totally misguided & anti-constitutional war on our guns. All you will ever accomplish with these absurd unconstitutional laws will be to limit law abiding citizens of our constitutional rights. Your ridiculous attempts to stop shootings will be laughed at by criminals & brought to the highest courts in the land that will ultimately go down in flames with the reversal of your idiotic bans. If you actually want to stop these kinds of things, there are many laws already on the books that criminals laugh at and go on with their evil. Why don't you put your energy & efforts into enforcing those laws, locking up those criminals instead of your half-baked ideas and empty intentions of protecting people you never protect.

Sincerely, a law-abiding citizen who is sick of you trying to Californicate Colorado,  
John Owen

## **Ken A Kluksdahl**

4704 Starfire Circle Castle Rock, CO 80104  
19113 East Tonto Verde Dr. Rio Verde, AZ 85263  
720-328-5183 (H) 406-698-2812 (CK)  
[kenkluksdahl@hotmail.com](mailto:kenkluksdahl@hotmail.com)

January 28, 2025

Colorado Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee

RE: Senate Bill 25-003

Dear Senate Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity for me to express my view as relates to the semi-automatic weapons ban. As a life-time member of the NRA, proud US citizen, and Colorado resident, I am deeply concerned by the over-reach of the Colorado State Government in attempting to pass this legislation. I am not going to recite the litany of studies that point to the flaws in this proposed law, quite simply, this matter is an infringement of my second amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I therefore respectfully submit my opposition to this bill and request that this matter be dismissed. Finally, I encourage the Colorado Senate to please get on with the business of the State - there are far more issues of concern confronting Colorado just now – not taking away my and my fellow law-abiding residents their rights.

Thank you

Ken Kluksdahl



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**Re: SB25-003**

1 message

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**Red Eagle** <lwallace622@msn.com>  
To: LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 9:01 AM

Thank you, I was able to submit a written statement. But nevertheless, I will leave you with my statement: Question: We recently here in the San Luis valley had a Lion attack and kill a 70 year old women not more than 2 miles from my home a week ago. Obviously, she did not have a weapon on her. But had she had a semi-automatic weapon with a magazine would she not had a better chance of survival than if she had a single shot revolver? The answer in my opinion is obvious! With the influx of illegal gang members over taking American cities I feel single family home members would have a mush better chance of protecting themselves against a mob invasion of their home with multiple round magazines than again, a single shot revolver. Thank you, Larry Wallace

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**From:** [elizabeth.burger@coleg.gov](mailto:elizabeth.burger@coleg.gov) <[elizabeth.burger@coleg.gov](mailto:elizabeth.burger@coleg.gov)> on behalf of LCS Committees <[committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov](mailto:committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:21 AM  
**To:** Red Eagle <[lwallace622@msn.com](mailto:lwallace622@msn.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: SB25-003

Hi Larry -

I apologize for this difficulty. You can reply with your testimony and I will upload it for you.

Thanks,  
Elizabeth Burger  
Legislative Council Staff

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 7:12 AM Red Eagle <[lwallace622@msn.com](mailto:lwallace622@msn.com)> wrote:

I went on line to submit written submission. I could not get pass step 3. It would not allow me to enter an answer for the second and third question. What is going on! Larry Wallace



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

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**SB 25-003**

1 message

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**Lee Tubach** <elderbach@msn.com>

Sat, Jan 25, 2025 at 7:01 AM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

As a citizen of the state of Colorado, I am demanding a "no" vote on SB 25-003. This proposed legislation is in direct violation of the 2nd amendment of the constitution of the United States. It would not make it thru the Supreme Court, so why waste taxpayer's money with lawsuits.

Howard L. Tubach Monument, CO



Yesterday evening 35 of our shooting team met for a training class to continue to improve our shooting skills and talk about the effects of the Senate bill 25-003 and how it would impact us as a community. These ladies and the others that are involved, over 150, feel it is very important that we be able to continue to purchase semi-automatic pistols for protection and sport. The semi-automatic firearm is one of the safest because the detachable magazine can be removed and gun showed clear while training. We value the right to own a firearm that is practical and dependable. Please think carefully about the impact this bill would have on law-abiding citizens.



Yesterday evening 35 of our shooting team met for a training class to continue to improve our shooting skills and talk about the effects of the Senate bill 25-003 and how it would impact us as a community. These ladies and the others that are involved, over 150, feel it is very important that we be able to continue to purchase semi-automatic pistols for protection and sport. The semi-automatic firearm is one of the safest because the detachable magazine can be removed and gun showed clear while training. We value the right to own a firearm that is practical and dependable. Please think carefully about the impact this bill would have on law-abiding citizens.



## Online Submission Doesn't seem to be working

1 message

**Mike Stern** <mxstern@gmail.com>  
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 1:59 PM

### My Concern:

**Mike Stern 5160 E Kensington Ave, Castle Rock, CO 80104**

1/28/25

**Subject:** Opposition to SB25-003 – Semi-Automatic Firearms Ban

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB25-003, a bill that seeks to ban the manufacture, distribution, transfer, or sale of semi-automatic firearms that accept a detachable magazine. This proposed legislation undermines Colorado's hunting heritage, recreational shooting community, wildlife conservation efforts, and the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

The passage of SB25-003 would have far-reaching consequences:

#### 1. Impact on Hunting and Wildlife Conservation:

Hunting is an essential part of Colorado's culture and a cornerstone of scientific wildlife management. In 2023 alone, hunting licenses raised nearly \$90 million for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, supplemented by an additional \$24 million in Pittman-Robertson funding, which comes from excise taxes on firearms and ammunition. By discouraging hunting and recreational shooting, SB25-003 would reduce participation and revenue for conservation efforts, jeopardizing critical programs that protect and manage wildlife across our state.

#### 2. Violation of Constitutional Rights:

The Supreme Court's rulings in *District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)* and *NYSRPA v. Bruen (2022)* reaffirmed that firearms in common use by Americans cannot be banned and that gun laws must align with a historical tradition of regulation. Semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines are the most popular class of firearms in the United States, used responsibly by millions for hunting, recreation, and self-defense. SB25-003 directly contradicts these constitutional precedents and casts serious doubt on its legality.

#### 3. Harm to Law-Abiding Citizens and Businesses:

By targeting commonly owned firearms, this bill will penalize law-abiding Coloradans who use these tools for lawful purposes. While the bill allows current owners to retain their firearms, restrictions on future transfers will limit ownership to direct heirs or out-of-state buyers, eroding generational traditions and creating confusion for responsible gun owners. Furthermore, it will harm local businesses and suppress the outdoor industry, which plays a vital role in Colorado's economy.

Instead of enacting legislation that alienates law-abiding citizens, reduces conservation funding, and jeopardizes constitutional rights, we should focus on solutions that target criminal misuse of firearms while preserving the rights and traditions of responsible gun owners.

I urge you to oppose SB25-003 and any future legislation that unfairly targets hunters, recreational shooters, and law-abiding firearm owners. I also encourage you to advocate for policies that respect Colorado's heritage, protect our wildlife, and uphold the Second Amendment.

Thank you for considering the voices of your constituents on this critical issue. I look forward to your response and to seeing action that reflects the values and priorities of Coloradans.

Sincerely,  
Mike Stern

[mxstern@gmail.com](mailto:mxstern@gmail.com)

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**Ph: 360 689 9058**

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1/28/2025

Robert Bergstrom  
President  
St. Vrain Manufacturing, Inc.  
[bobb@stvrainmfg.com](mailto:bobb@stvrainmfg.com)  
303-702-1529 Ext. 103

Good evening, and thank you for your service to Colorado's citizens,

While I've signed up to testify remotely via Zoom, it is becoming apparent that I may not be called due to the number of folks present in person before I must leave work for a prior commitment, so please allow me to submit written testimony.

While we all grieve for the loss of life associated with criminal gun violence, this bill is wrought with issues, and frankly, will be ignored by criminals, as has been the magazine restriction ban. You've noted, standard capacity 30 round magazines are readily available...as will be unmodified modern sporting rifles. Do you really think a Colorado criminal won't drive an hour or two to a neighboring state, and buy a firearm? Further, I strongly believe passing this bill will open the state to lawsuits, both on 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and 5<sup>th</sup> amendment grounds. You've heard a lot about 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment issues, and while I agree with the reasoned arguments grounded in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I am going to focus on the Takings clause of the later.

Below is the text of the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment to the US constitution...please focus on the highlighted section.

Fifth Amendment:

*No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, 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; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.*

Below is an excerpt from <https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/>

"The Fifth Amendment provision barring the Government from taking private property for public use absent just compensation has its origin in common law. In his *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States*, Justice Joseph Story grounded the Takings Clause in natural equity, describing it as a principle of universal law without which almost all other rights would become utterly worthless"

Also cited on this website in *PA Coal CO v. Mohon*, 260 U.S. 393, 416 (1922): "A regulation that deprives a property owner of **all** beneficial use of property requires compensation, unless the owner's proposed use is one prohibited by background principles of property or nuisance law existing at the time the property was acquired"

As the owner of a precision machine shop, part of my business plan for 2025 was to apply for a Class 7 FFL and SOT, to engage in the manufacture of Modern Sporting Rifle components...we have invested over a million dollars in the last few years to position ourselves to be able to enter this area of business. I fail to see how passage of this bill is anything less than a constitutional taking being imposed on both Colorado firearm manufacturers, and stores with current inventory of banned items?

A simple textual read of this amendment makes it clear to me that passage of this bill would expose the State of Colorado to significant fiscal liability. I ask, how is this not a constitutional taking?

In an era where you are faced with almost a one billion dollar deficit, both the potential Takings claims, coupled with the loss of the revenue these businesses inject into our economy seems unreasonable. Just the cost of the

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill.

Best regards,

Robert Bergstrom

Wyatt Lovingier  
Gilpin County, Colorado  
CO House District 49  
CO Senate District 8  
US House District 2

27 January 2025  
Senate Committee of State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Subject: Opposition to SB25-003

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony today in opposition of SB25-003 “Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices”. I will outline my reasoning, and I will include a list of my cited sources at the end. I believe this bill is an overreach of the State’s authority and is faulty for a myriad of reasons: This bill is inconsistent with the history of the United States and the State of Colorado, is out of line with the character of the State, makes it more dangerous for the owners a semi-automatic firearm, reduces the wealth of any current semi-automatic firearm owners, will place an undue strain on associated locally owned and operated Colorado retailers & businesses (while encouraging the continued overtaking of local retailers by large national & multi-national corporations), continues to promote two classes of citizenship, and will further the disenfranchisement of low income people. This bill is, ultimately, emotionally rooted and will do nothing to advance the policies that are actually required to stem violence in the State.

#### The Character of the State & History of its Firearms

A common misnomer is that Colorado is a “rural state”. The truth is that Colorado’s character is that of a “western state”. As of the 2020 census, only 14% of the state population is classified as “rural”, yet 45.1% of the population reports owning a firearm as of 2024 (1) (2). Colorado Parks and Wildlife reports more than 1.1 million anglers and hunters in the state, 19% of the state’s population, and the Colorado Wildlife Council reports that hunters generate \$843 million dollars and anglers generate \$2.45 billion dollars in annual revenue in the state (3) (4) (5). People in this state have a love for the outdoors, and live alongside firearms recreationally used by hunters and outdoors people all the time, as they have for generations. Enjoying the outdoors has risks, from wild animals and others, and people choose to carry in order to mitigate those risks. But outdoor enthusiasts aside, only 19% of the population buy a hunting or fishing license from the CPW yet nearly half the population reports owning a firearm.

The firearms targeted by this bill have been available to the public for more than 119 years. The Remington Model 8 (1905), and Winchester Model 1905 (1905) are both sporting rifles, sold to the American public as early as 1905 (6) (7). The Model 1905, now 119 years old, would be illegal to buy under this bill if it was produced today. Semi-automatic handguns with detachable magazines have been commercially available to the public since before rifles even, since at least 1897 (123 years ago) with the Model 1897 (8). This bill seeks to make illegal the sale of equipment and technology that has been available to the public for more than 119 years yet somehow the technology in question, that which makes a firearm a “specified semiautomatic firearm”, is what has promoted the social issues this bill seeks to address? And by eliminating this 120-year-old technology the issues will be fixed? I highly doubt this, and offer more in the conclusions section.

### The Consequences of SB25-003

SB25-003 would have immediate negative consequences for individuals and businesses in the state. These would be physical, economic, & social consequences reaching into millions of Colorado residents' lives.

This bill would instantly render the value of a "specified semiautomatic firearm" to \$0. A firearm is a tangible asset, that millions of Coloradans own, and the sale & transfer restrictions of this bill would take hundreds or thousands of dollars out of the real wealth of each regular citizen that owns a "specified semiautomatic firearm". This bill would place an undue burden on citizens who wish to reclaim the wealth they have been stripped of to seek sales to an out of state FFL with a customer willing to buy. This would cost the average citizen more money and time than they could afford, effectively negating it as an option for reclamation of value. It is an overreach of the state to devalue a real asset like this. Also, the only in-state transfer exception is to an heir, so if a person wishes to pass along a semiautomatic firearm, a family heirloom or otherwise, they cannot do so until they die.

The state and local economies would suffer a blow from this legislation. There will be harm done to the livelihoods of all local firearms retailers in the state by significantly reducing the value of their inventory. If they cannot sell it, it is worth nothing. This also furthers the increasing takeover of local retailers by Big Box Stores because a company like Cabela's/Bass Pro or Big 5 has many branches out of state they will transfer their now illegal inventory to, but a local store will have no one to sell to, and will be forced to take a loss selling out of state to a flooded market. As stated previously, hunting alone is an \$835 million dollar industry in Colorado, not to mention the sporting/competitive firearms industry at large. Eliminating these firearms will drive locals out of business and reduce revenue into and within the state.

SB25-003 increases the level of injustice and inequality in the state. As previously stated, this bill would devalue owned property of Colorado citizens. Alternatives to "specified semiautomatic firearms" are not commonplace / are special made products. A person with wealth can overcome either of these obstacles by selling out of state, accepting the loss on value, and/or replacing with a specialty firearm that complies with this bill. On the other hand, poor people cannot justify the cost of selling out of state (travel, time, fees) and cannot justify the cost of replacing their firearm with a new specialty product. This bill inherently promotes a wealth and class divide in this way, and will also drive up the cost of alternative compliant firearms putting replacement costs even further out of reach.

The class divide is also apparent in the both the exceptions to and punishments from the bill. People who transfer or accept a "specified semiautomatic firearm" are, upon first offense, prohibited from purchase of ANY firearm, on a Class 2 misdemeanor charge, as specified in Section (2)(4)(b) and Section (4). This is an egregious overstep of power and a blatant attempt towards disarming the general population of all weapons by restricting the transfer of 120-year-old technology, something that people have been able to do for 5-6 generations, and then making the punishment a disqualification of ownership. There is of course an exception for law enforcement and armed guards as specified in Section (2)(3)(a)(I, II, III). This allows the wealthy to access the protection offered by firearms through the use of hired services, and does nothing to slow the use of excessive force, fatal force, by police. "Colorado is among five states with the highest rates of fatal police shootings in the country" and "of the 25 largest cities in the United States, Denver, Colorado had the highest rate of fatal police shootings" (9). If the intent of this bill is to quell violence in the state, then why is the organization with the most fatal shooting per capita exempted?

### Conclusions & What Can Be Done Better

The Colorado constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms in defense of “home person, and property” (10). This has been the way of the State for generations, and the arms called into question by this bill have been available for Coloradans to bear for 120 years or more. This bill will not accomplish its stated goals and will only disenfranchise the people of the state who wish to protect themselves from harm or put food on the table with the tools they have. The State should abandon this bill, and instead focus on the root problems that cause violence and death today. Gun violence contributes only 0.57% of annual deaths in the State per the State’s own health data (11), yet I voted yes for Proposition KK “Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax” and Proposition 130 “Law Enforcement Funding Initiative” so that we could fund important services like the “Peace Officer Training and Support Fund”, “crime victims services”, “veterans mental health services”, and the “children and youth behavioral health crisis response system” (12) (13). I voted for these measures because things like drug overdose (1,865 people), suicide (1,290 people), alcoholic liver disease (891 people), Covid (626 people), and nutritional deficiency (483 people) kill more people in Colorado every year than firearm homicides (259 people) (11). There are systemic problems in Colorado, like the fact that “At least 426 people have been killed by law enforcement in Colorado since 2013” (14). Mental health (especially youth mental health), drug overdoses, and the skyrocketing cost of living are the tough tasks we should be trying to target with our policies, not coming after the everyday person trying to defend themselves against a hard world.

If you made it to the end of this letter, I appreciate your time and the effort you put in to reading this opposition.

Best,  
Wyatt Lovingier

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# Opposition to SB25-003

My name is David Williams, a retired Special Forces Weapons Sergeant and Special Forces Operations Sergeant after 24 years of service.

I am writing in OPPOSITION to this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill will make a different definition of a firearm that does not exist and essentially making a ban on commonly owned firearms.
- The Militia, as defined in the Colorado Constitution, is defined by both the organized and unorganized militia; part of the organized militia is the State Defense Force which are all able bodied males 18-65 years of age who are not part of the National Guard, Armed Forces, or exempt from service as outlined in Colorado Law. The State Defense Force, if called on by the governor of the state, will most certainly need to bring weapons that would be worthy of militia use.
- The bill will NOT stop crime, nor will it deter criminals from obtaining such items and bringing them to this state from elsewhere. The only persons who would be affected are the law abiding citizens and FFLs.
- If the sponsor of the bill, Mr. Sullivan thought that semi-auto firearms with a detachable magazine were so dangerous, there would be no amnesty or grandfathering of current semi-automatics with detachable magazines.
- Giving law enforcement, who is paid by the state, an exemption creates a monopoly for the government to do what it wants, when it wants, and without the fear of resistance.

## **Definition:**

An AR-15 is defined as *a semi-automatic rifle capable of select fire from safe to semi-automatic that accepts a detachable staggered box magazine*. Which is easily the most common rifle in the United States and may even be the most common rifle of the world in competition with the AK-47. To ban the sale, transfer, or manufacturing of this common rifle, and the like, you have made an entirely new definition.

Moreover, if there is a manufacturer that would create these types of firearms, they would certainly be too expensive for the average citizen to purchase them legally. Never mind the excise tax this body approved into law last year.

## **Militia:**

Part of the militia is the State Defense Force. If the governor calls on those who meet the definition of the State Defense Force to defend this state, we certainly would need to have firearms that can defend.

The AR-15 platform is a defensive rifle and can also be used as an offensive rifle, which is true for any semi-automatic firearm with a detachable magazine. Phasing these types of firearms out of the state will essentially lead to an inept State Defense Force.

If anyone reading this letter does not believe in a militia, surely you are shaking your head and believe that the State Defense Force would never be called. But I assure you, if the National Guard is ever called on to conduct Title 10 authorities, the only force left to defend this state is the State Defense Force. One needs to look no further than Russia and China to recognize that there is a global competition and WWIII may or could be right around the corner.

### **Crime:**

In what world do we live in where this law would actually prevent crime or save lives when it only prevents the sale and transfer of the items in question? Even if you could pass an all out ban on semi-automatic firearms, crime will still continue and possibly even increase.

What happens if this law is passed and another mass shooting happens, but with a semi-automatic fixed magazine? Is this body going to reduce the magazine capacity again? Will this body try to ban semi-automatics altogether? This body is chasing its tail and never goes after the real problems that affect people's choices in life who commit crimes, with or without a firearm.

### **The Sponsor:**

The simple fact that this bill has a grandfather clause for already existing semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazine displays the sponsor does not think these firearms are all that dangerous, or at least not dangerous enough to remove those firearms that already exist.

It also exposes the long game that is played. Mr. Sullivan is obviously still grieving the loss of his son from 12 years ago. He wears a jacket to remind everyone why he is there and that is without a doubt a conflict of interest.

Mr. Sullivan, as the sponsor of the bill, is also part of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs CMTE as the Vice Chair, a blatant conflict of interest as this bill moves through this CMTE.

### **Law Enforcement:**

If there is ever a time in the future where the United States becomes tyrannical with Gestapo-like enforcement, the people of this nation, to include Colorado, must have the equipment to resist. Resistance is in our heritage, our history, and our blood. From George Washing to President Trump, we have fought to resist tyranny in all forms.

Albeit, our resistance has mostly been in the courts, legislative bodies, and other first Amendment Actions that do not call for violence since our Civil War, and that is how it should be. We should use our First Amendment Rights to resolve issues, but our Second Amendment Rights are there in the event our government becomes unacceptably tyrannical, a terrorist attack happens that limits established emergency response, or a war starts where all of our service members, both Active and Guard, must fight away from home, and the only other defense are the citizens of this great nation.

**In Summary:**

This opposition is for several reasons, but most importantly the representatives that have taken their oaths seriously should not vote in favor of this bill. Put your emotions aside because we all want to prevent the next mass shooting, we all want to reduce violence, and we all want to save lives, but this bill will do none of that.

David Williams

[dave@tripleacoach.com](mailto:dave@tripleacoach.com)

719-491-3006

I'm Sean Perkins, and I'm writing in opposition to proposed Senate Bill 25-003.

I am a 19-year resident of the Colorado Springs area, a retired US Air Force officer, 12-year veteran of security teams at faith-based organizations, and an emergency medical technician for the state of Colorado for the past 12 years. My reservations with SB 25-003 include its opposition to established US Supreme Court precedent about firearms in common use, the fact that it will disadvantage law-abiding citizens trying to defend themselves against hardened criminals, and that it ignores hard-earned lessons from the current wars in Israel and Ukraine.

The US Supreme Court declared in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. (2022) that local governments cannot ban firearms in common use. SB 25-003 would ban the sale or transfer of the most commonly used firearm in the country, the AR-15 platform, along with similar firearms. Why is the Colorado legislature flying in the face of these established decisions?

“God created men; Colonel Colt made them equal.” This quote attributed to Samuel Colt shows the truth that firearms equalize human beings in conflict by negating advantages in physical size and strength, allowing everyone the ability to defend his or herself against bad actors who would do them harm. However, SB 25-003 will prevent citizens of Colorado from defending themselves with the most effective tools, semiautomatic rifles with detachable, standard-capacity magazines. Criminals will by definition not respect Colorado laws and bring with them those exact weapons, while law-abiding Colorado citizens will be hobbled by SB 25-003 with weapons designed to be difficult to use—and good people will die due to this disparity.

Lastly, this same logic applies to the lessons flowing from the recent terrorist attacks by Hamas in Israel and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The good guys need access to commonly used, effective firearms to defend themselves and their communities. Inbal Rabin-Lieberman was a 25-year-old member of the security team of her kibbutz, and organized a successful defense against Hamas terrorists by means of a number of the same weapons SB 25-003 would outlaw. In Ukraine, armed resistance against the invading Russians was problematic due to most Ukrainian citizens not owning such weapons, delaying the ability of the populace to defend their neighborhoods. It is foolishly prideful to think such examples have no bearing on life in Colorado.

In summary, I ask that all Colorado legislators and Governor Polis oppose SB 25-003 as an ill-advised bill that flies in the face of Supreme Court decisions, United States history of allowing citizens to defend themselves with weapons on par with those of their attackers, and lessons literally written in blood from current conflicts in Israel and Ukraine. Thank you.

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LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**Re: In opposition of SB25-003**

2 messages

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**Regina Eslick** <reslicksw@gmail.com>  
To: LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 8:09 AM

Good morning, Elizabeth:

My family and I listened to many hours of testimony around SB25-003 last night and I have a little more I'd like to share with the committee.

I noticed that there were different points made on the opposition side: this bill is unconstitutional, it will likely result in more accidental discharges and injuries, it will hurt the recreational shooting/hunting industry of CO, and the reality of police response time -especially in rural areas- is high. There were a few that shared lived experience that having access to their guns saved lives. I learned things from these testimonies and I remain in opposition to this bill.

I noticed that there was a common theme among the support side: fear, lived experience of being near the site of mass shootings, having lost a loved one to gun violence, and an overarching belief that this bill will close a loophole in the 2013 law banning high capacity magazines. I sympathize with these testimonies, and it makes my heart sad that there are so many living in fear. I also want to add that I've lost a precious loved one to homicide by a gun last year and I've lost friends and acquaintances over the years to suicide with guns.

I agree that mass shootings and gun violence are tragic and we need to get to the root of the problem. I believe that gun control measures are not going to help this problem. We know that criminals are not going to obey the laws.

The root issue is that our American culture, legal system, and institutions of entertainment, education, and health have gone away from the Truth of the Gospel (yes, the God of the Bible as Creator of the world in 6 days and His commandments to love Him above all others and to love our neighbors). Our country was founded on these truths and our laws used to be based on the 10 commandments. Since moving away from absolute truth and moral reality, we have invited in death, depravity, and chaos. But, the Bible also teaches that self-defense is permissible to protect life, which is also expressed in our 2nd Amendment of the Constitution. Self-defense is permissible and necessary because we do live in a fallen world and unfortunately not everyone is going to accept the news of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

I agree, the tragedy of the Boulder King Soopers mass shooting should not have happened. School shootings should not happen. Our children should not have to have active-shooter drills; it's quite an unsettling experience (spoken as a school social worker who sat through a number of these drills with students). Club Q was a tragedy. The thing that these places have in common: they are all gun-free zones. Criminals know this and these are soft targets for them. Club Q is a different example; El Paso County is not anti-gun, but Club Q was because of the population that frequented the establishment... They believe that standing up for oneself is toxic and that guns hurt people. In any of these cases, if there were armed security or armed patrons, the threats would have been neutralized more quickly than they were. I also believe that our culture pushing woke agendas and encouraging people to make their own god and live their own truth is a major part of this mess.

As Christians, we have been given a spirit of power and love not of fear and weakness (2 Timothy 1:7). The Holy Spirit also guides us in love, Truth, and self-control. This is what is missing from our American culture. This is what is missing from our great state of Colorado. And this gift, this message is for the whole world: that God gave his only Son (Jesus) who knew no sin to be a sacrifice for our sin (He died on a sinner's cross to forgive all of our past, present, and future sins), and He rose again on the 3rd day to defeat death so that no one will perish (be utterly destroyed in the second death of eternal hell) but to be given eternal life (which is of perfect unity and peace with God himself in heaven). But, this gift must be received by each individual person. God is kind in that He gives us a choice. That is why sin exists... because some people have chosen to do hateful and murderous things to others. This is why we need our 2nd amendment, and that is why the founding fathers stated the right to bear Arms shall not be Infringed.

I know this is not a popular message, but I believe it is important. I've seen the power of the Gospel change lives, and we are praying that God will restore our nation to a be a moral people who seek Him.

Respectfully,  
Regina Eslick

On Tue, Jan 28, 2025, 8:36 AM LCS Committees <[committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov](mailto:committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov)> wrote:

Hi Regina -

I apologize for the difficulty you experienced submitting testimony through the website. I have received your testimony and shared it with the committee.

Thanks,  
Elizabeth Burger  
Legislative Council Staff

On Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 6:16 PM Regina Eslick <[reslicksw@gmail.com](mailto:reslicksw@gmail.com)> wrote:

I spent time trying to do a written testimony in opposition to this bill on the legislation website... I don't know if it went through and I couldn't find this item on the list again to attempt to resubmit my testimony.

This is my written testimony IN OPPOSITION of SB25-003:

The 2nd Amendment to our Constitution states: "...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms SHALL NOT be Infringed." (Emphasis mine)

According to the Noah Webster 1828 dictionary, the definition of "infringe" is to break as contracts; to violate either positively by contravention (opposition, obstruction, defeating of the operation), or negatively by non-fulfillment or neglect of performance.

The very essence of defining a 'specified automatic firearm as a "semiautomatic rifle or semiautomatic shotgun with a detachable magazine" and then prohibiting the manufacturing, distributing, transferring, selling, or purchasing of these firearms directly fits the definition of infringement by obstruction of what the 2nd amendment clearly states.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court ruling of McDonald v. City of Chicago in 2010 established that the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution applies to individual States. That includes Colorado.

Finally, it has been proven over and over again that making gun free zones and cities only exacerbates violent crime. We live in an evil world and law-abiding citizens need access to our firearms to protect ourselves, our families, and community members when necessary because the paid men and women with guns (aka police force) are stretched extremely thin. This is why our Founding Fathers emphasized the need for a well regulated militia and empowering the people to bear Arms.

Respectfully,  
Regina Eslick, LCSW  
concerned citizen of Colorado, mother, and educator

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**LCS Committees** <[committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov](mailto:committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov)>

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 8:21 AM

To: Regina Eslick <[reslicksw@gmail.com](mailto:reslicksw@gmail.com)>

Thanks Regina. I have received this email and shared it with the committee.

Elizabeth

[Quoted text hidden]



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**In opposition of SB25-003**

2 messages

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**Regina Eslick** <reslicksw@gmail.com>  
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 6:15 PM

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Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 8:36 AM

Hi Regina -

I apologize for the difficulty you experienced submitting testimony through the website. I have received your testimony and shared it with the committee.

Thanks,  
Elizabeth Burger  
Legislative Council Staff  
[Quoted text hidden]

Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,  
I am submitting my testimony to urge you to oppose SB 25-003. I voice my request in spite of my unfortunate belief that at least three of members of the Committee won't even consider this when they vote due to party affiliation and their specific relation to the bill.

The primary sponsor and his co-sponsors present this as a simple "common sense" law to protect the public and to enforce the previous magazine capacity law passed in 2013. To give the premise that a new law is needed to enforce an existing law from twelve years ago is, with all due respect, ridiculous and laughable at best and intentionally misleading and condescending to the people of Colorado at its worst. The rest of SB 25-003's language is a thinly veiled attempt to pass a round-about "assault weapon" ban, as the drafters and sponsor of the bill are most assuredly aware that it would completely restrict any future manufacture, purchase or sales of all the same firearms they have wanted to ban outright in previous years. Such a ban has resoundingly been opposed by the people of Colorado in all the previous years which certain legislators have attempted to pass such bills. For our elected officials to tout this newest bill as anything else than a reworking or a new angle on an "assault weapon bill" is disingenuous and misleading.

Passing this law guarantees future legal challenges and waste of financial and court resources by the state as it is plainly unconstitutional based on more than one ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. One such firearm, the "dreaded" AR-15, for example, is a design which is almost 70 years old, and has been the "poster child" for the anti-gun movement. It is the most prolific rifle within our country, and yet the least used firearm in the crimes laws like SB 25-003 profess to control. They are ubiquitous and clearly meet the standard of "in common use" set by SCOTUS in their decision in District of Columbia v. Heller and cannot be banned or removed from use by the average citizen. Based on other Supreme Court decisions there is also no historical basis for such a ban in our state, which the highest court has stated is necessary to be considered when removing such items from the people. At its' heart, SB 25-003 is simply a bill meant to restrict citizens constitutional rights and ban future access to legal arms.

Additionally, the bill's language leaves interpretation of what may be added to these banned firearms to the unilateral decision of the State Attorney. This is too broad an administrative power and should not be left with such a broad reaching yet narrow view of one person without any future citizen representation.

Perhaps our legislators could look for ways to strengthen existing laws regarding firearm use in crimes against Coloradoans, to creating mandatory penalties for ALL crimes of violence and addressing the mental health crisis we are seeing across our communities. Too often the firearms charges connected with other crimes are the first to be dropped by prosecutors. Too often the theft of firearms or the possession of firearms by prohibited persons is the first thing to be bargained away. Too often violent offenders are left to commit crimes without any recourse. Perhaps if criminals knew that crimes committed with weapons, of any kind, would bear the strongest penalties, they may be deterred. Perhaps if persons with violent histories or known mental health concerns would be addressed we could head off future injury and trauma. One need only look to the UK to see the actual effect of restrictions such as SB25-003 over the long term on violent crime. It hasn't stopped it. The UK is constantly chasing the needle, so much to

the extreme that they now legislated against knives that appear overly scary or large, the “zombie knife”. Where does it stop for us if we don’t address the underlying issues rather than how something makes us feel when we think about it or look at it?

Larimer County is a prime example of the courts and our prosecutors failing. The Larimer County court recently let out an offender in late 2024 on a \$250 bond, but only after the prosecutor initially, and irresponsibly, asked for a lesser PR(signature) bond. The judge stepped in and decided that was not appropriate due to the accused being arrested for threatening and chasing a woman and her dog into a freezing river, then attempting to drown the responding police officer. This person, clearly a threat to our community in Northern Colorado, was let go with essentially no regard for how dangerous he was or the safety of the community. He subsequently was arrested about a week later for first degree murder when he killed his elderly mother in her own home. The recent murders and attempted murders in downtown Denver by a chronic violent offender who stabbed multiple people over numerous hours only adds to the litany of examples victims and law enforcement could list where known violent individuals are turned loose. This bill seeks more restrictions on law abiding people. There are too many poor responses to violent offenders by our prosecutors, the courts and our legislators. Laws on the books that are dismissed, decided to be unimportant or too hard to address. Criminals, by definition, don’t follow the law, and those who don’t fear any repercussions for their actions fear the law even less. I struggle with how that doesn’t seem to be understood by so many of our elected representatives. Yet so many legislators wish to create new laws which aim to criminalize law abiding behavior by firearm owners, who are the greatest majority of firearm users, rather than addressing those who commit crimes which have already been defined, and are not imaginary or threats and fears of “what if”. Truth be told, some recent laws appear designed to re-victimize victims of theft and administratively restrict the exercising of their civil right under the 2nd amendment.

I finish my testimony with the same request that I began with. Please oppose SB 25-003. It is not good for our state or our residents and does nothing to actually prevent crime or protect the people of Colorado. Please look for solutions to the underlying problems and not the symptoms of the ills in our communities. I believe that is what would make for effective lawmakers, not the passing of ineffective spotlight legislation like SB 25-003.

Respectfully,  
Rigo Neira  
Evans, Colorado  
District 13

Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,  
I am submitting my testimony to urge you to oppose SB 25-003. I voice my request in spite of my unfortunate belief that at least three of members of the Committee won't even consider this when they vote due to party affiliation and their specific relation to the bill.

The primary sponsor and his co-sponsors present this as a simple "common sense" law to protect the public and to enforce the previous magazine capacity law passed in 2013. To give the premise that a new law is needed to enforce an existing law from twelve years ago is, with all due respect, ridiculous and laughable at best and intentionally misleading and condescending to the people of Colorado at its worst. The rest of SB 25-003's language is a thinly veiled attempt to pass a round-about "assault weapon" ban, as the drafters and sponsor of the bill are most assuredly aware that it would completely restrict any future manufacture, purchase or sales of all the same firearms they have wanted to ban outright in previous years. Such a ban has resoundingly been opposed by the people of Colorado in all the previous years which certain legislators have attempted to pass such bills. For our elected officials to tout this newest bill as anything else than a reworking or a new angle on an "assault weapon bill" is disingenuous and misleading.

Passing this law guarantees future legal challenges and waste of financial and court resources by the state as it is plainly unconstitutional based on more than one ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court. One such firearm, the "dreaded" AR-15, for example, is a design which is almost 70 years old, and has been the "poster child" for the anti-gun movement. It is the most prolific rifle within our country, and yet the least used firearm in the crimes laws like SB 25-003 profess to control. They are ubiquitous and clearly meet the standard of "in common use" set by SCOTUS in their decision in District of Columbia v. Heller and cannot be banned or removed from use by the average citizen. Based on other Supreme Court decisions there is also no historical basis for such a ban in our state, which the highest court has stated is necessary to be considered when removing such items from the people. At its' heart, SB 25-003 is simply a bill meant to restrict citizens constitutional rights and ban future access to legal arms.

Additionally, the bill's language leaves interpretation of what may be added to these banned firearms to the unilateral decision of the State Attorney. This is too broad an administrative power and should not be left with such a broad reaching yet narrow view of one person without any future citizen representation.

Perhaps our legislators could look for ways to strengthen existing laws regarding firearm use in crimes against Coloradoans, to creating mandatory penalties for ALL crimes of violence and addressing the mental health crisis we are seeing across our communities. Too often the firearms charges connected with other crimes are the first to be dropped by prosecutors. Too often the theft of firearms or the possession of firearms by prohibited persons is the first thing to be bargained away. Too often violent offenders are left to commit crimes without any recourse. Perhaps if criminals knew that crimes committed with weapons, of any kind, would bear the strongest penalties, they may be deterred. Perhaps if persons with violent histories or known mental health concerns would be addressed we could head off future injury and trauma. One need only look to the UK to see the actual effect of restrictions such as SB25-003 over the long term on violent crime. It hasn't stopped it. The UK is constantly chasing the needle, so much to

the extreme that they now legislated against knives that appear overly scary or large, the “zombie knife”. Where does it stop for us if we don’t address the underlying issues rather than how something makes us feel when we think about it or look at it?

Larimer County is a prime example of the courts and our prosecutors failing. The Larimer County court recently let out an offender in late 2024 on a \$250 bond, but only after the prosecutor initially, and irresponsibly, asked for a lesser PR(signature) bond. The judge stepped in and decided that was not appropriate due to the accused being arrested for threatening and chasing a woman and her dog into a freezing river, then attempting to drown the responding police officer. This person, clearly a threat to our community in Northern Colorado, was let go with essentially no regard for how dangerous he was or the safety of the community. He subsequently was arrested about a week later for first degree murder when he killed his elderly mother in her own home. The recent murders and attempted murders in downtown Denver by a chronic violent offender who stabbed multiple people over numerous hours only adds to the litany of examples victims and law enforcement could list where known violent individuals are turned loose. This bill seeks more restrictions on law abiding people. There are too many poor responses to violent offenders by our prosecutors, the courts and our legislators. Laws on the books that are dismissed, decided to be unimportant or too hard to address. Criminals, by definition, don’t follow the law, and those who don’t fear any repercussions for their actions fear the law even less. I struggle with how that doesn’t seem to be understood by so many of our elected representatives. Yet so many legislators wish to create new laws which aim to criminalize law abiding behavior by firearm owners, who are the greatest majority of firearm users, rather than addressing those who commit crimes which have already been defined, and are not imaginary or threats and fears of “what if”. Truth be told, some recent laws appear designed to re-victimize victims of theft and administratively restrict the exercising of their civil right under the 2nd amendment.

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Respectfully,  
Rigo Neira  
Evans, Colorado  
District 13

## **SB 25-003: Colorado Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices Bill**

(Sen. Sullivan, Sen. Gonzales; Rep. Froelich, Rep. Boesenecker)

Dear Senators,

I want to urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 25-003. As gun violence continues to devastate communities across Colorado, Colorado needs to take decisive action to enforce the state's existing high-capacity magazine ban by ensuring that all new semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, and some gas-operated pistols, sold into the state do not accept detachable magazines.

Firstly, high-capacity magazines make shootings more lethal, increasing the amount of ammunition that can be fired before a shooter needs to pause to reload. While Colorado enacted a ban on high-capacity magazines in 2013, the existing law makes it dangerously easy for mass shooters and criminals to evade, as they can easily cross state lines to legally buy magazines in neighboring states and attach them to high-powered, military style firearms—which are legal to sell in Colorado.

Secondly, since Colorado does not prohibit any type of semi-automatic military style weapon, a potential mass shooter or criminal can legally purchase an exceptionally deadly firearm and obtain a prohibited magazine with relative ease. At least 8 out of the 10 highest-casualty mass shootings involved semi-automatic weapons and a high capacity magazine.<sup>1</sup> In the 2021 Boulder shooting at King Soopers, the shooter legally purchased a Ruger AR-556 semiautomatic pistol which he then paired with multiple high-capacity magazines, which are illegal to possess under current Colorado law, and murdered ten people.<sup>2</sup> In the 2022 Colorado Springs Club Q shooting, the attacker perpetrated the attack with a self-assembled AR-15 style rifle and had several high capacity magazines—all illegal magazines under Colorado law.

Thirdly, since Colorado enacted the high-capacity magazine ban in 2013, the firearm industry has had close to a decade to develop safer firearms. But they've instead chosen to innovate for maximum lethality. Just five gun makers alone made over \$1 billion selling AR-15s in the past decade.<sup>4</sup> Their inaction requires that the state of Colorado take decisive action to hold them accountable and protect our communities.

Fourthly, this new bill does not prohibit assault weapons like the laws enacted in other states. It simply requires that any new semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, and some gas-operated pistols, sold in Colorado use fixed magazines. Almost all of these weapons can be made compliant under Senate Bill 25-003. Numerous gun makers already sell fixed-magazine rifles (including AR-15s and AK-47s), shotguns, and pistols into states like California and New York.

Finally, Colorado must also prohibit the full range of rapid-fire devices which effectively allow shooters to evade federal and state law regulating machine guns. In order to fully implement and enforce Colorado's existing high-capacity magazine prohibition and to end the profit motivation for the gun industry to keep selling these deadly firearms, Colorado should pass SB 003, a bill prohibiting the purchase and sale of all rapid-fire conversion devices and prohibiting the manufacture and sale of the most dangerous weapons—specified semi-automatic, military-style firearms that can accept high-capacity magazines. Again, this bill is absolutely essential to lowering the risk of gun violence in Colorado. Please vote for Senate Bill 25-003.

Thank you.



Re: Senate Bill 25-003JUSTIN CLIFFORD to committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov 01/23/2025  
12:56 PM

Hello,

I was not able to submit a testimony online (your site prevented it). However, I wanted to provide testimony regarding gun ownership and senate Bill 25-003:

I am a lawful gun and carry permit holder in Colorado. I am 100% in objection to ANY action to ban semi-automatic weapons, of any type, in the state of Colorado! As society becomes more lawless, citizens need to protect themselves is rising. Any form of ban will mitigate my and other Colorado residents from being able to protect ourselves from the increasing violence we see from certain sectors of the community. 99% of all gun violence is at the hands of CRIMINALS who illegally possess a firearm. 99.9% of all LEGAL gun owners are responsible citizens who have never and WILL never commit a crime involving a firearm. The state legislature cannot continue to threaten our 2A right to gun ownership, especially semi-automatic weapons. Additionally, ANYONE who legally possesses a semi-automatic firearm and wishes to use it for recreational purposes should NEVER be denied that right! Sincerely,

Justin Clifford  
836 S. Medea Way  
Denver, CO 80209

p.s., please let me know if I need to submit via another format.

Steve Archuletta  
16610 Fannin Cir  
Peyton, CO. 80831  
[stevearchuletta@mindspring.com](mailto:stevearchuletta@mindspring.com)

23 January 2025

Colorado Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003. As a Colorado resident, I am deeply concerned about the overreach represented by this proposed legislation, as well as the potential for it to infringe upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens as protected under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Second Amendment is a cornerstone of our nation's constitutional framework, and the United States Supreme Court has repeatedly reaffirmed the individual right to keep and bear arms. Notably, in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Court recognized that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms unconnected with service in a militia for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home. More recently, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) emphasized that any governmental regulation of firearms must be consistent with this historic interpretation of the Second Amendment.

Additionally, the weapon configuration described in Senate Bill 25-003 does not currently exist, raising further questions about the practicality and intent of the legislation. This proposed configuration appears to be a theoretical construct that does not reflect any firearm presently available on the market. Attempting to legislate against a nonexistent configuration unnecessarily burdens manufacturers, sellers, and responsible gun owners while diverting attention from meaningful discussions on public safety.

Furthermore, I am deeply troubled by the apparent influence of out-of-state special interest groups, particularly those tied to individuals such as Michael Bloomberg, on Colorado's legislative process. While policy discussions should consider diverse perspectives, laws governing Colorado residents should prioritize the values, needs, and voices of those who live here—not the agendas of wealthy, out-of-state entities with little understanding of our state's unique challenges and culture.

Colorado has a proud tradition of respecting the rights of its citizens while ensuring public safety through balanced, thoughtful legislation. Senate Bill 25-003 threatens this balance by imposing restrictions that disregard Supreme Court precedents and the constitutional protections they reaffirm.

I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and instead support policies that uphold the fundamental rights of Coloradans, foster trust between citizens and government, and ensure public safety through reasonable, evidence-based measures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Archuletta', with a stylized, wavy line extending to the right.

Steve Archuletta  
Peyton, Colorado

# MATT TURNER

*for* **SHERIFF**

January 28, 2025

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Matt Turner and I am speaking in my personal capacity. I am an Army veteran, I am currently a Captain at the Weld County Sheriff's Office, and I am currently running to be the next Sheriff of Weld County.

I believe that this Bill, and Bills like it, violate the Constitution of the United States. More importantly, nothing will change. The weapons already exist and that makes enforcement of this Bill near impossible. Without a criminal incident, public safety officials would have no legal reason to inspect any firearm without infringing on the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights of our citizens. Any inspection of weapons would require their use in the commission of a crime. Criminals do not follow the law. They will still get guns through illegal methods. This bill has the same so-called loopholes that existed in the magazine ban of 2013. This Bill does nothing to interact with crime; it puts limitations on law abiding citizens and puts their constitutional rights at risk. It will only create further tension between public safety officials and the communities that they serve. The only solution is to put the teeth back in the criminal justice system. Make criminals feel the penalty for their actions, instead of blaming their actions on the weapons they use.

Finally I will agree with something I heard earlier. The second amendment was written so citizens could protect themselves from their government. I agree with this, and firmly believe in it even though I work in the executive branch of the government. This Bill is proposed governmental over-reach.

Please oppose this Bill.

[www.turnerforsheriff.com](http://www.turnerforsheriff.com)

Greetings. This was a personal email to those I have transferred firearms or know. Some 100 addresses.

The Colorado Senate has set **SB003** for a hearing on January 28 2:00pm. This bill is the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt to ban semi automatic firearms. I have read this bill several times and encourage you too also.

Besides all the definitions and exemptions, **the crux of the issue is to prohibit unspecified "specified semiautomatic firearms"**

This could include all of the semiauto firearms that you all have been buying lately. The bill **DOES NOT** specify any firearms but makes it possible for the Attorney General to provide guidance now and into the future. Not only is the bill anti-2nd Amendment, it isn't even good enough to specify firearms they are afraid of but allows unlimited potential to name all semiauto's. You will not be allowed to buy from out-of-state either. It's tied to CRS18-12-116 (2) which refers to firearm storage which refers to ALL firearms. Make sense? Yes if they wish to prohibit all firearms under this law. A side intent is to force it into court to drain the gun lobby resources.

The Governor is **absolutely non-committal** on this bill to sign or veto if passed. A loud voice is required to discourage the General Assembly and the Governor from embarrassing themselves again by tackling this bill.

My name is Caroline Graver, I am advocating in support of bill SB-25-003. By stopping the manufacture, sale, and transfer of certain high-powered firearms that accept detachable magazines, we can save lives. In 2013, Colorado enacted a law that prohibits magazines that hold more than 15 rounds of ammunition. But, it is still so easy for mass shooters to find the loophole within this law. A criminal can easily purchase a semi-automatic assault weapon that accepts detachable high capacity magazines. Then, the criminal could just drive over an hour to Wyoming to purchase that magazine and attach it to an easily accessible weapon.

I am in support of this bill banning specific semi-automatic firearms that accept detachable magazines because it is inhumane that these big manufacturers are profiting billions off of deadly weapons designed to cause the greatest amount of harm with no consideration for human life or our safety.

Allowing mass shooters to purchase these kinds of high-powered firearm is lethal as it is and then proceeding to allow them to increase its lethality with an unnecessary amount of ammunition is unjust and evidently corrupt.

I remember my mom freaking out because my cousins had been in lockdown all day. I remember her explaining to me what was going on. I would see on the news different headlines of mass shootings and would be appalled by how many people were impacted in such a short period of time. This is when my concerns really started affecting how I perform in school. As time went on, I grew up. I went to 5280 High School for my freshman year before I transferred to East High School my sophomore year. At 5280 all of the classrooms were 'fishbowls' meaning that our classrooms were bounded by thin sheets of glass. I would get scared almost all of the time, 'If something were to happen, where would I go?' I would make up scenarios in my head that led me to come up with a few solid places to hide. A small closet hidden in the gender neutral bathroom, the giant dresser in the art room, or I could run.

When I transferred to the East I was shocked at the safety measures they were taking. For example, students cannot enter the building at all unless they have their physical school id, there were these red bags filled with tourniquets and gauze.

While I'm appreciative that my school takes these measures, they shouldn't have to, and schools should be welcoming and nurturing places without worrying about the threat of a shooting. I joined Students Demand Action last year, a gun reform group where students are able to use their own voice as we are being affected by this issue everyday. By being in this club, I am able to take as much action as I can as a young person with a voice. I turned my fear into action, although I question how fair it is.

I have always lived in the fear of 'what if' and the lingering fear truly never leaves me. I am here today to support this bill because I believe we can and should do better.

SB25-003

I totally disagree with this bill as written. It will do nothing to deter gun violence. Take Chicago as an example. Look at the gangs from other countries that seem to have no trouble getting firearms, Aurora being a good example. This bill will do nothing to prevent that. Criminals do not care how many laws you pass. All this bill will do is prevent law abiding citizens from purchasing a good self defense firearm.

I am writing in opposition to SB25-003.

In the conclusion of the bill it states that, "The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety..."

This bill will not ensure public peace, health, and/or safety. It is another example of the slow but consistent erosion of the 2nd Amendment **rights** of Colorado citizens at the hands of this legislature.

Furthermore, this bill goes against legal precedent, specifically the US Supreme Court District of Columbia v. Heller decision (554 US 570). In that decision, the Supreme Court wrote that,

"None of the Court's precedents forecloses the Court's interpretation. Neither United States v. Cruikshank, 92 U. S. 542, 553, nor Presser v. Illinois, 116 U. S. 252, 264–265, refutes the individual-rights interpretation. United States v. Miller, 307 U. S. 174, **does not limit the right to keep and bear arms to militia purposes, but rather limits the type of weapon to which the right applies to those used by the militia, i.e., those in common use for lawful purposes.** Pp. 47–54. (Source: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/554/570/>)

I wish to highlight the "those in common use for lawful purposes" text. According to the 2021 "National Firearms Survey" over 30% of gun owners, or over 26 million people, have indicated that they owned an AR-15 or similar style weapon. Based on this data, up to 44 million AR-15 style weapons have been owned by gun owners across America. Furthermore, the study found that just over **33% of Colorado gun owners reported having an AR-15 style firearm.**

(Source:

<https://michellawyers.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-09-06-Exhibit-1-William-English-2021-National-Firearms-Survey-ISO-State-Defendants-Mtn-to-Preclude-Consideration-of-William-English-NSSF-Surveys.pdf>)

This data epitomizes the common use for lawful purposes mentioned in the DC v. Heller decision. An AR-15 style firearm, of which you wish to ban all but the current ownership of said firearm, is highly common in Colorado and more than predominantly used for lawful purposes.

It is our **right** as citizens to keep and bear arms for common use for lawful purposes. I have demonstrated that the AR-15 style firearm is common and is well known that is used for lawful purposes. It is **your responsibility** to protect those rights as they are outlined in our Constitution. **You do not have the right** to arbitrarily determine what constitutes safety in our state based on political purposes. It is our responsibility to hold members of our state and US legislative bodies accountable for not upholding the rights enumerated in the Constitution.

I urge you to not let this ill-conceived and unlawful bill continue to be considered.

Regards,

Joel Osofsky

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Regards,

Joel Osofsky

## Opinion against proposed bill SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Here we go again. A bill was passed in 2013 to ban so-called high capacity magazines in Colorado. The bill didn't make citizens more safe, proved to be unenforceable and met no objective other than to harass legal gun owners. Regardless, because it succeeded in passing the anti-gun groups created a small crack in our legal system to launch future useless legislation. SB25-003 is the next step in this process. This bill proposes to eliminate all removable gun magazines from the state and it will do so by punishing anyone caught buying or selling a magazine. Not to say the majority of firearms sold and owned today have detachable magazines thus creating a blatantly unconstitutional bill. Our legislators have no interest in the constitutionality of any law they propose in this state so why should it matter, right? Currently there exists no law prohibiting a legal owner of an object from transferring that object to another person legally allowed to possess that object. This proposed law, if passed, would be used as a precedent for future laws to justify banning ownership of literally anything a person could possess. For example, want to force Coloradans to purchase electric vehicles? Just pass a law prohibiting the sale or transfer of gas powered vehicles (don't try this). Even better, make it a misdemeanor or felony if caught doing so just to make sure the innocent perpetrator is given a permanent criminal record. These are horrible laws with the sole intent to punish citizens that have done nothing wrong. Any legislator who proposes this garbage needs to be removed from office as they do not have our best interests in mind. In fact, the legislator who proposed the assault weapons ban last year is no longer in office. Hmmm, that should be a warning to any legislator wishing to have a long career in this state.

Looking at the state web page for this bill I notice one of the sponsors, Tom Sullivan, is wearing a New York Yankees baseball cap. It seems Mr Sullivan's allegiance lies in some other state, not Colorado, which makes sense seeing New York state has the most draconian gun laws of any other state, save for California. I might remind Mr Sullivan that we here in Colorado are not now, or ever aspire to be, New Yorkers. Please take your big city, soft on crime and hard on citizens legislature elsewhere. It is not welcome here.

Sincerely,  
Gary McCombs

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing to you to urge you to cancel SB25-003. This bill will have massive negative effects on legal gun owners and will do absolutely nothing to stop gun violence.

- This bill will drastically effect In state and out of state hunters. Many hunters use weapons with detachable magazines as it is required by CPW that you can only load your weapon while actively pursuing game and not while traveling in and out of areas. Hunting is a sport wherein you often travel to different areas throughout the day and this would make it much more cumbersome for hunters to load and unload their weapons every time. This would also bring about problems for out of state hunters. Hunters traveling from out of state to hunt in Colorado would possess existing weapon systems that will no longer be legal in Colorado. Additionally, any hunters traveling out of the state via plane cannot fly with these guns as it is a TSA requirement to remove magazines from the gun before securing it and checking it in for travel. **This will reduce the amount of people traveling to and from Colorado for hunting and expose those who do, but not aware of the in-state law to violating the law.**
- This bill will make guns vastly **LESS SAFE**. Not having the ability to detach a magazine will **significantly increase the time it takes to remove a weapon from battery**, making it "Clear and Safe". Right now, all a law abiding gun owner needs to do is detach the magazine and cycle the action once to remove a bullet from the chamber (if one is present). If this bill passes, a gun owner will have to cycle the weapon action every single time, to remove every single bullet. This creates an unsafe scenario in which the weapon is placed into battery every single time the owner cycles the action while trying to make the weapon clear and safe.
- Finally, this will cause significant undue burden on law abiding gun owners seeking to exercise their 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights. This law is falsely being advertised as a magazine control, but in fact it will outlaw most existing semi automatic pistols, rifles, and shotguns with detachable magazines. These weapons that have removable magazines do not have variants or controls in place to produce "non removable" magazines. This will only impact law abiding gun owners and will not lead to any reduction of gun-related crime.



Kory Nelson, Esq.  
Attorney-at-Law

---

Honorable Mike Weissman, Chair  
Honorable Tom Sullivan, Vice Chair  
Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee  
Colorado General Assembly

CC: Sen. J. Gonzales, Rep. Boesenecker, Rep. Froelich, Sen. Frizell

RE: Opposition to SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Members of the Committee:

As a recently retired career prosecutor with the City & County of Denver, with over 34 years of experience, I know the SB25-003 is not only patently unconstitutional, but its sponsors provide a false premise that it will make Colorado citizens safer. There is no doubt, based on my experience, that the vast majority of dangerous criminals use firearms that are stolen. Punish the criminals – do not violate your oaths to defend the U.S. Constitution by attack the rights of Colorado citizens. Please vote to kill SB250-003, for these reasons, but I would like to make a record about one more reason.

As a U.S. Army Cold War Veteran, I received firearm training in basic training at Ft. Dix, NJ, on several weapons, including the M16A1, receiving an Expert Sharpshooter rating. I have been issued a CCW permit by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and I fully appreciate that responsibility. However, I also want to explain something the anti-gun lobby will deny: Yes, citizens do have a legitimate need for semi-automatic, magazine fed, rifles – even ones that may fit within the vague definitions of an “assault weapon”. While these are essential weapons in war, they are also essential for citizens use in self-defense, defense of other, and defense of their property. Let me give you the practical real-world situation your constituents face in non-urban areas that supports my claim.

I live in the Town of Parker, and my residential neighborhood abuts open space. Over the years, our neighborhood has experienced several instances of dangerous wild animal incursions into our residential properties. We regularly have coyotes attack our domesticated pets and have presented aggressive behavior to our residents on our walking trails. The Town of Parker has installed warning signage along our walking paths for this exact reason. We have also had documented cases of mountain lions in our neighborhood, resulting in warnings being issued to our neighborhood schools, such as Cimarron Middle School and Legend High School. These are strong, nimble, and quick predators who will approach their targets with stealth and use surprise and speed to attack, disregarding our residential home property lines, lined with open split rail fences. If such an attack were to occur in close proximity to my home, I do not want to be limited to using an unreliable old-fashioned single round rifle to stop such a nimble wild animal at a distance. I need a rifle capable of rapid fire – a semi-automatic, magazine fed, rifle that maximizes my capacity to hold it steady and track the moving animal at a distance.

I imagine many urban residents, and their elected officials, have absolutely no appreciation for the day-to-day dangers that other Colorado residents have to face, even this one clear and documented danger of wild animal attacks in residential neighborhoods – the U.S. Constitution does not give you the authority to discount these facts. Even one rational use of these weapons is legally sufficient to uphold my right to purchase such a firearm, or have it transferred to me, which means I have a right to have legitimate firearm manufacturers and retail firearm businesses in Colorado have the capacity to assist me in exercising my rights.

I would like to thank my elected legislators, Senator Frizell & Representative Hartsook, in their opposition to this unconstitutional bill. I ask you all to remember that your oath was to defend the entire U.S. Constitution, not just those portions you like. I took two oaths to do the same, the first when I joined the U.S. Army, and the second when I was licensed by the Colorado Supreme Court to practice law. Please vote to kill SB25-003.

Respectfully Yours,

*/s/ Kory A. Nelson*

# **The Ineffectiveness of Assault Weapons and Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on Crime Control. Thoughts from a Colorado Native & Registered Firearms Owner.**

January 27th, 2025

RE: SB25-003

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

Gun control is a hotly debated issue in the United States, with advocates often pointing to measures like banning assault weapons and large-capacity magazines as solutions to curb gun violence. However, a closer examination reveals that such bans are ineffective in addressing the root causes of gun violence, primarily because criminals, by definition, do not adhere to laws. Furthermore, these measures often fail to demonstrate any tangible reduction in gun-related crimes, raising serious questions about their overall efficacy. When analyzed in light of key Supreme Court decisions, such as *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), the argument against these bans becomes even more compelling.

The core issue with banning assault weapons and large-capacity magazines is that such regulations target law-abiding citizens rather than those intent on committing crimes. By their very nature, criminals do not obey laws—that is what makes them criminals. If someone is willing to violate laws against murder, robbery, or assault, they are unlikely to be deterred by restrictions on the type of weapon or magazine they use.

Research supports this reality. Studies have consistently shown that the majority of firearms used in crimes are obtained illegally, either through theft, the black market, or other illicit means. For instance, a Bureau of Justice Statistics report revealed that only a small percentage of criminals obtain firearms through legal channels. Thus, restrictions on specific firearm types or magazine capacities primarily inconvenience law-abiding gun owners while doing little to disarm those with malicious intent.

One critical question often overlooked in the gun control debate is: What gun control measures have demonstrably prevented gun-related crimes? Historical data suggests that the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, which expired in 2004, had little to no impact on reducing gun violence. According to a study funded by the Department of Justice, the ban's effects on gun violence were minimal, partly because assault weapons were rarely used in crimes to begin with.

Similarly, bans on large-capacity magazines have not been shown to prevent mass shootings or other violent incidents. In many cases, perpetrators simply carry multiple smaller-capacity magazines, negating the intended effect of such bans. This reality underscores the futility of focusing on the tools used in crimes rather than addressing the underlying causes of violence, such as mental health issues, socioeconomic factors, and the breakdown of community structures.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional protection. In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Court held that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, such as self-defense. The decision explicitly stated that bans on commonly used firearms are unconstitutional, as they infringe upon this right. Every one of the firearms in my possession would be 'illegal' with the passing of this bill, however, they are absolutely firearms that are "commonly used" in the world of hunting, Sport Shooting, Self Defense and Shooting Competitions.

Building on this precedent, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) further emphasized that any gun control measures must align with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation. The Court ruled that modern restrictions must be rooted in the original understanding of the Second Amendment. Bans on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines fail this test, as they target firearms and accessories commonly owned and used by millions of Americans for lawful purposes, including self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting.

Focusing on banning specific types of firearms or accessories distracts from more effective solutions to gun violence. Instead of imposing blanket bans that infringe upon constitutional rights and disproportionately impact law-abiding citizens, *policymakers should prioritize measures that address the root causes of violence. These include improving mental health care access, enhancing community policing, and enforcing existing laws against illegal firearm possession and trafficking.*

Moreover, resources should be directed toward evidence-based interventions, such as violence interruption programs and education initiatives that promote responsible gun ownership. These approaches have a proven track record of reducing violence without infringing upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Assault weapon and large-capacity magazine bans are not only ineffective but also constitutionally questionable. They fail to deter criminals, who do not follow laws, and do little to address the actual causes of gun violence. As the Supreme Court has affirmed in *Heller* and *Bruen*, the Second Amendment protects the right to possess firearms commonly used for lawful purposes. Policymakers should shift their focus away from ineffective bans and toward solutions that address the root causes of violence while respecting constitutional rights. By doing so, we can foster a safer society without compromising the freedoms that define our nation.

I would strongly urge you to vote NO on SB25-003 and end this overreaching legislation now, before it tangles up more time and money that would be spent better on legislative items that

the Colorado public actually desire.

Respectfully,

Michael Ziegler

Colorado Native and Firearms Owner

Testimony in opposition to: SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices Ban. Senate State Affairs Committee - (Two attached files.)

Thank you, Chair and Committee

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 here in opposition to the measure under consideration. While we appreciate the sponsors' desire to "do something," about crime, we have numerous problems with this proposal.

We may hear that the Founders could not have imagined multi-shot firearms. This is a specious argument. The authors of the Constitution were among the most educated and knowledgeable people of their generation. They would certainly have been aware of the state of the art of gun-making at the time. In addition to guns with more than one barrel, which could be fired in succession, there were numerous other developments. Jefferson, himself, would have certainly known of the powerful, repeating air rifle taken on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which he commissioned.

(Please see handout entitled: Debunking the Myth that the Founders were not aware of Repeating Arms.)

The US Government evaluated the effectiveness of the 1994 federal ban on semi-automatic firearms. Researchers completed two reviews and concluded that the ban had no effect on violence and crime in this country.

(Please see handout entitled: Gun Control Research- 1994 Semi-Auto Ban.

In the *Heller* Decision, which is increasingly quoted by opponents of the right to individual self-defense from crime, corruption, tyranny, and genocide, recognized and protected by the Second Amendment; the US Supreme Court ruled that governments cannot ban firearms that are in widespread, common use. Conservatively, there are tens of thousands of semi-auto firearms in Colorado and millions nationwide. Standard capacity magazines of over ten rounds are even more common.

In the more recent *Bruen* Decision, the Supreme Court clearly indicated that proposed gun regulations without an historical analog during the time of the founding of the United States do not withstand judicial scrutiny. Since there is no record of such a ban on a similar class of firearms during the early days of the American Republic, it would seem the proposal under consideration is clearly unconstitutional. Similar laws in other jurisdictions have been ruled unjust in federal court.

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

[Federal judge strikes down decades-old California ban on assault weapons | CNN.](#)

While semi-automatic firearms are not the primary infantry weapon in any modern army, they would be useful in the hands of the Unorganized Militia, if it were called up in defense of the United States. Of all the various types of firearms, semi-autos would seem to be the most protected regarding their relationship to the “militia” mentioned in the Second Amendment.

SB25-003 would eliminate citizens’ ability to acquire firearms that make up a substantial percentage of gun sales in Colorado. This legislation cuts off the ability to purchase modern firearms. Semi-auto firearms have been in existence for over 125 years. SB25-003 would effectively restrict Colorado gun owners to the use of firearms available in the late 1800s, while doing nothing substantial to restrict the ability of mass shooters to use illegally obtained modern firearms.

A recently introduced bill, SB25-059, Supports for State Responses to Mass Shootings, is an attempt to backfill the loss of revenue that is anticipated for crime victims’ relief organizations that were promised funding from the “sin tax” passed last year on firearms and ammunition. This proposal is a tacit admission of the probability that SB-003 will cripple the firearms industry in Colorado and destroy this income stream. For this reason alone, SB-003 should not be allowed to pass, if the Legislature is serious about supporting crime victims.

We urge a “No” vote on this bill.

Thank you.

Robert Edmiston  
Volunteer Lobbyist  
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado

## **Testimony Opposing SB25-003**

Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Frank Vaughn. I live in HD-27 and thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am here to express my strong opposition to SB25-003. This bill represents a misguided approach to addressing violence in our communities.

The core issue we face is not the presence of firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens—it is the growing crisis in mental health that has gone unaddressed for far too long.

As a retired Chief Master Sergeant, small business owner, and long-time Colorado resident, I have seen firsthand the importance of personal responsibility and accountability in our communities.

It is undeniable that those who commit violent acts often exhibit clear warning signs of mental distress. However, instead of focusing our efforts on providing robust mental health resources, we are penalizing individuals who have done nothing wrong with this bill.

Law-abiding gun owners represent some of the most responsible members of our society. They go through background checks, training, and education to exercise their Second Amendment rights. Yet, this bill seeks to restrict their rights without addressing the root causes of violence. Disarming good people does not make us safer. It only leaves them vulnerable.

I urge you to consider solutions that focus on early intervention, mental health care accessibility, and support systems for those in crisis. These are proactive measures that will address the true causes of violence without infringing on the constitutional rights of responsible citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to oppose this bill.

Dear Members of Senate,

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003), which proposes sweeping restrictions on semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazines. This bill raises serious concerns regarding its practicality, unintended consequences, constitutionality, and its potential to erode the rights and safety of responsible gun owners in our state. I urge you to consider the following points before moving forward with this legislation.

### **1. The Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens**

Many hunting rifles and shotguns commonly used by responsible gun owners are semiautomatic and feature detachable magazines. These firearms are not only utilized for hunting but also for recreational shooting, competitive sports, and personal protection. SB25-003 would disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens who rely on these firearms for legitimate purposes.

Forcing manufacturers to design firearms with permanent magazines would create significant barriers for gun owners. Permanent magazines are more challenging to maintain, especially in situations involving malfunctions. Clearing jams or conducting basic maintenance could become dangerous and cumbersome, potentially leading to unsafe conditions for firearm users. These operational challenges may deter responsible citizens from owning firearms, thereby infringing on their rights without addressing the core issue of criminal misuse of firearms.

### **2. Increased Black Market Activity**

One of the unintended consequences of SB25-003 would be an uptick in black market activity. Restricting access to semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines for law-abiding citizens will not prevent criminals from obtaining these firearms through illegal channels. Historically, stringent gun control measures have often led to the proliferation of unregulated and illegal gun sales, creating an even more dangerous environment for everyone.

By driving firearms transactions underground, SB25-003 would reduce transparency and hinder law enforcement's ability to track and prevent illegal gun trafficking. This would ultimately place citizens at greater risk, as criminals would retain access to firearms while law-abiding individuals are left defenseless.

### **3. Violation of Second Amendment Rights**

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. SB25-003 directly infringes upon this fundamental right by restricting how citizens can choose to exercise their right to self-defense and the defense of their families. Limiting access to semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazines undermines this constitutional guarantee and sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of individual freedoms.

The Supreme Court has consistently upheld that laws placing undue burdens on the exercise of constitutional rights are unconstitutional. SB25-003's restrictions would likely face significant legal challenges, as it imposes arbitrary limitations on the types of firearms citizens can lawfully own and use. The bill's broad and overreaching language disregards the principle of individual choice in self-defense matters, a cornerstone of the Second Amendment.

### **4. Economic and Practical Implications**

Forcing manufacturers to redesign firearms to comply with SB25-003's provisions would be both cost-prohibitive and impractical. Firearms manufacturers would incur substantial expenses in re-engineering rifles and shotguns to include permanent magazines, a process that may not even be feasible for many models. These costs would inevitably be passed on to consumers, placing an undue financial burden on law-abiding gun owners.

Furthermore, the manufacturing of firearms with permanent magazines introduces logistical challenges for safe operation. As previously mentioned, these designs are harder to clear during malfunctions, increasing the likelihood of accidental injuries. Lawmakers must consider whether the theoretical benefits of such restrictions outweigh the very real risks and challenges posed to responsible gun owners.

### **5. Impact on Future Generations**

SB25-003 would significantly curtail the ability of future generations to own and use semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. These firearms have long been a part of American culture, used not only for self-defense but also for recreational purposes, hunting, and competitive shooting. By enacting this bill, lawmakers risk denying future citizens the same opportunities and rights enjoyed by previous generations.

The ability to legally acquire and use firearms is a deeply rooted tradition in this country, and SB25-003 threatens to undermine this heritage. This legislation could alienate

younger generations who are just beginning to learn about firearm safety and responsible ownership, potentially discouraging participation in activities like hunting and shooting sports.

## **6. The Need for Targeted Solutions**

If the intent of SB25-003 is to address gun violence, it is imperative to focus on targeted solutions that address the root causes of crime rather than penalizing law-abiding citizens. Comprehensive measures such as improved mental health services, community outreach programs, and stricter penalties for gun-related crimes would be far more effective in reducing violence without infringing upon constitutional rights.

Additionally, investments in firearm safety education and responsible gun ownership initiatives would empower citizens to handle firearms safely and responsibly. These approaches have a proven track record of reducing accidents and misuse without imposing burdensome restrictions on lawful gun owners.

In conclusion, SB-003 is a deeply flawed piece of legislation that fails to strike a balance between public safety and the rights of law-abiding citizens. By restricting access to semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines, the bill unfairly targets responsible gun owners, undermines Second Amendment protections, and risks creating a black market for firearms. It also places unnecessary economic and operational burdens on manufacturers and consumers while failing to address the root causes of gun violence.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation and explore alternative approaches that respect constitutional rights and focus on meaningful solutions to enhance public safety. Please stand with law-abiding citizens and reject SB25-003.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jason McKibben

[jwmnco@gmail.com](mailto:jwmnco@gmail.com)

970-531-6008

Arvada, CO

Dear Members of the Senate and House of Representative,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003), which proposes sweeping restrictions on semiautomatic rifles and shotguns, particularly those with detachable magazines. This bill raises serious concerns regarding its practicality, unintended consequences, constitutionality, and its potential to erode the rights and safety of responsible gun owners in our state. I urge you to consider the following points before moving forward with this legislation.

### **1. The Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens**

Many hunting rifles and shotguns commonly used by responsible gun owners are semiautomatic and feature detachable magazines. These firearms are not only utilized for hunting but also for recreational shooting, competitive sports, and personal protection. SB25-003 would disproportionately affect law-abiding citizens who rely on these firearms for legitimate purposes.

Forcing manufacturers to design firearms with permanent magazines would create significant barriers for gun owners. Permanent magazines are more challenging to maintain, especially in situations involving malfunctions. Clearing jams or conducting basic maintenance could become dangerous and cumbersome, potentially leading to unsafe conditions for firearm users. These operational challenges may deter responsible citizens from owning firearms, thereby infringing on their rights without addressing the core issue of criminal misuse of firearms.

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One of the unintended consequences of SB25-003 would be an uptick in black market activity. Restricting access to semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines for law-abiding citizens will not prevent criminals from obtaining these firearms through illegal channels. Historically, stringent gun control measures have often led to the proliferation of unregulated and illegal gun sales, creating an even more dangerous environment for everyone.

By driving firearms transactions underground, SB25-003 would reduce transparency and hinder law enforcement's ability to track and prevent illegal gun trafficking. This would ultimately place citizens at greater risk, as criminals would retain access to firearms while law-abiding individuals are left defenseless.

### **3. Violation of Second Amendment Rights**

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. SB25-003 directly infringes upon this fundamental right by restricting how citizens can choose to exercise their right to self-defense and the defense of their families. Limiting access to semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with

detachable magazines undermines this constitutional guarantee and sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of individual freedoms.

The Supreme Court has consistently upheld that laws placing undue burdens on the exercise of constitutional rights are unconstitutional. SB25-003's restrictions would likely face significant legal challenges, as it imposes arbitrary limitations on the types of firearms citizens can lawfully own and use. The bill's broad and overreaching language disregards the principle of individual choice in self-defense matters, a cornerstone of the Second Amendment.

Furthermore, granting the attorney general the power to determine which firearms are prohibited introduces uncertainty and risks overreach, leaving Coloradans unsure of where the line is drawn and potentially criminalizing everyday tools for protection.

#### **4. Economic and Practical Implications**

Forcing manufacturers to redesign firearms to comply with SB25-003's provisions would be both cost-prohibitive and impractical. Firearms manufacturers would incur substantial expenses in re-engineering rifles and shotguns to include permanent magazines, a process that may not even be feasible for many models. These costs would inevitably be passed on to consumers, placing an undue financial burden on law-abiding gun owners.

Furthermore, the manufacturing of firearms with permanent magazines introduces logistical challenges for safe operation. As previously mentioned, these designs are harder to clear during malfunctions, increasing the likelihood of accidental injuries. Lawmakers must consider whether the theoretical benefits of such restrictions outweigh the very real risks and challenges posed to responsible gun owners.

#### **5. Impact on Future Generations**

SB25-003 would significantly curtail the ability of future generations to own and use semiautomatic rifles and shotguns. These firearms have long been a part of American culture, used not only for self-defense but also for recreational purposes, hunting, and competitive shooting. By enacting this bill, lawmakers risk denying future citizens the same opportunities and rights enjoyed by previous generations.

The ability to legally acquire and use firearms is a deeply rooted tradition in this country, and SB25-003 threatens to undermine this heritage. This legislation could alienate younger generations who are just beginning to learn about firearm safety and responsible ownership, potentially discouraging participation in activities like hunting and shooting sports.

#### **6. The Need for Targeted Solutions**

If the intent of SB25-003 is to address gun violence, it is imperative to focus on targeted solutions that address the root causes of crime rather than penalizing law-abiding citizens. Comprehensive measures such as improved mental health services, community outreach programs, and stricter penalties for gun-related crimes would be far more effective in reducing violence without infringing upon constitutional rights.

Additionally, investments in firearm safety education and responsible gun ownership initiatives would empower citizens to handle firearms safely and responsibly. These approaches have a proven track record of reducing accidents and misuse without imposing burdensome restrictions on lawful gun owners.

### **Conclusion**

SB25-003 is a deeply flawed piece of legislation that fails to strike a balance between public safety and the rights of law-abiding citizens. By restricting access to semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines, the bill unfairly targets responsible gun owners, undermines Second Amendment protections, and risks creating a black market for firearms. It also places unnecessary economic and operational burdens on manufacturers and consumers while failing to address the root causes of gun violence.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation and explore alternative approaches that respect constitutional rights and focus on meaningful solutions to enhance public safety. Please stand with law-abiding citizens and reject SB25-003.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Garrett Barten

[gbarten518@gmail.com](mailto:gbarten518@gmail.com)

Montrose, CO

## **SB25-003 Testimony - Leland Conway/USCCA**

My name is Leland Conway with the United States Concealed Carry Association, the largest organization of it's kind, dedicated to saving lives through training responsible gun owners to better protect themselves, first through de-escalation and avoidance, and second through safe and effective use of all legal means of self defense.

### **The Reckless Speed of SB 3**

- [Senate Bill 3](#) is currently being rushed through the Colorado state legislature without adequate input from key stakeholders, including law-abiding gun owners, firearms instructors, and more.
- We have seen time and time again that legislation that is rushed through the process often yields unintended consequences and makes citizens less safe.
- Responsible policy making requires a thoughtful and deliberative process that weighs public engagement and does not infringe on our constitutional rights.

### **SB 3 Would Make Colorado Less Safe**

- The fact is millions of Americans rely on certain types of semiautomatic firearms for their safety and self-defense. A blanket ban on these tools will put responsible Coloradans at a disadvantage in defending themselves and their families.
- [Analysis shows](#) no significant association between homicide rates and assault weapons bans, as well as large-capacity ammunition magazine bans.
- In fact, findings suggest that laws which regulate the “*what*” (i.e., what guns/products are allowed) do not have much of an impact on overall population homicide. In contrast, laws that regulate the “*who*” (i.e., who has legal access to firearms) may have an appreciable impact on firearm homicide, especially if restricting access is limited specifically to those people who are at the greatest risk of violence: Namely, people who have a history of violence or represent an imminent threat of violence.
- We know that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. Blanket bans like these will only affect law-abiding citizens who would otherwise responsibly own firearms and serve as the first line of defense in the absence of law enforcement.

- We have seen that cities and states that introduce restrictive measures on firearms (ex: Chicago) in fact see the exact opposite – and in fact contribute to increased gun violence and crime rates.

### **Responsible Gun Ownership Saves Lives**

- The USCCA is an organization that is dedicated to the education and training of more than 850,000 responsible gun owners nationwide.
- Our mission is firmly rooted in rigorous and continuous training for gun owners which in essence helps save lives and makes gun owners more prepared to responsibly use their firearm.
- Rather than restricting tools for lawful self-defense, the USCCA advocates for more accessible training and education programs and resources to help gun owners act responsibly and effectively in critical situations.
- Data supports the idea that trained and prepared citizens can deter crime and improve community safety.

### **Law-Abiding Gun Owners Rarely Commit Crimes**

- Law-abiding gun owners, including concealed carry permit holders, who undergo various firearm training requirements are among the [most law-abiding demographics in the nation](#), with [lower crime rates](#) than even police officers.
  - Although too small of a sample size to provide much statistical significance, the FBI analyzed 50 active-shooter incidents from 2016 and 2017. In 10 incidents, citizens confronted the shooter. In eight of those incidents, one or more citizens safely and successfully acted to end the shooting.
- Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics Report (2013) show that less than one percent of firearms-related crimes are committed by lawful gun owners.
- Penalizing thousands of responsible gun owners in Colorado for the actions of a criminal few is not an effective way to prevent future violence.

I respectfully ask each of you on this committee to vote against SB 3 and instead, let's work together - law abiding, responsible gun owners and legislators from both sides of the isle - toward our shared goal of ending senseless violence. We can achieve this goal, and we can do so

faster and more efficiently working together rather than infringing on the constitutionally protected rights of law abiding Colorado citizens.

Thank you.

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

01/28/2025 02:00 PM

SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Bryson Aldridge</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I was at STEM School Highlands Ranch on May 7th, 2019. I was in a school shooting, and I view any acts that limit the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution as dangerous and that would directly threaten the other Amendments to the Consitution of the United States. While I understand the feeling that we should get rid of these dangerous weapons to stop this violence that is occurring in our nation, all this ban will do is harm our law-abiding citizens who will have one of the tools that was given to us in the Bill of Rights to defend ourselves taken away. This law will do nothing to keep firearms and other weapons out of criminal hands and will only harm our citizens. With the concern over the current Government that has just taken over, I would understand the wants of minority communities to defend themselves with these firearms.</p> <p>Not only that, but we still have many individuals such as myself who enjoy collecting these firearms as a hobby and take them to the range for a fun day. Taking away the RIGHTS of your constituents is a blatantly fascist ideal. The United States of America was created in order throw off the shackles of oppression yet you want to oppress your own constituents, which, drawing parallels, is something that the Nazis did in the 1930s. Not only that, but you are allowing dangerous ideologues who are willing to break the law to have the monopoly of force now, what will happen to our communities if we take away the monopoly of force from the people and give it to those dangerous ideologues? Nothing good. So, I implore you to drop this bill and never touch it with a ten-foot pole.</p> <p>Respectfully, Bryson Aldridge</p>
<p>James Swa</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>SB25-003:</p> <p>This bill will infringe on my rights to transfer, purchase, sell, import, or manufacture any firearm that I want. The banning of these so-called "assault" weapons will not lower the violent crime rate or the murder rate in Colorado at all. The 1994 Federal Assault Weapons that expired in 2004 did nothing to lower these rates at all. If this</p>

	<p>bill passes there will not be a drop in the shooting rate in Colorado since most shootings happen with a handgun.</p> <p>This bill will only make law abiding citizens defenseless against the criminals who actually commit these shootings and violent crimes. Criminals will not follow the law that will take effect if this bill pass. Why are we going to violate the rights of American Citizens by passing this law and making them easier targets for criminals. When this bill takes effect after it passes you will more an likely see an increase in the violent crime rate in Colorado.</p> <p>When you look into what will be banned under this bill it will violate multiple Supreme Court rulings. One is District of Columbia v. Heller. The ruling was that it definitively found that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense in the home. Which all AR and AK style rifles will currently fall under. You also have the New York State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen, which makes it unconstitutional to pass a law the violates the 2nd Amendment rights of Americans to own a firearm unless the government can prove that there was a law at the time of the signing of the Constitution that restricted the rights of Americans. There was no ban on any sort of firearms at that time. Which was 1796.</p> <p>There have been 0 murders using a .50 caliber rifle in recorded American history. What is the point of banning these when the chance of someone using it in a shooting is nearly 0% due to the cost to purchase one, the cost of the ammo, and it being so large and heavy that it is not easily concealed. Also the recoil makes it harder to aim with due to the recoil of the 50 BMG round.</p> <p>Banning a weapon due to having certain features does not change the damage a person is able to do in any period of time. All these features that are listed in the bill just makes the firearm easier to use, not more deadly.</p> <p>All this bill will be doing is banning scary rifles and pistols does nothing to protect the citizens of Colorado. Instead harms law abiding Colorado citizens more than it will the criminals that you think will be stopped by the passage of this bill. Law abiding citizens will be the only ones that will follow this new law. Why harm law abiding Colorado citizens with a law that will not change any of the crime rate in Colorado positively? It is not about safety since it will make law-abiding citizens more of a target instead of allowing them to transfer, purchase, sell, import, or manufacture these sorts of firearms to protect themselves from these criminals.</p>
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	<p>Criminals will never care about any of the laws that you pass that's why they are called criminals. They don't care about the laws you pass and will not follow them.</p> <p>It seems like they don't care about their constituents instead they want to vote on party politics which will violates millions of Colorado citizens rights since you tried to pass similar bills for the last 2 years. We all know if this bill is passed the state will be sued and waste money defending the ability of the state government to violate rights and basically shut down small businesses that rely on these semi-automatic firearms to stay in business. All the Democrats want to is control the people and they are not about safety like they have been talking about. The Democrats plan is to run as many gun store as possible out of business, so that there will not be many places left in the state you are able to purchase a firearm legally. Which in turn they will more and likely pass another bill that will ban or force people to register semi-automatic firearms. All know where this bill will lead to, confiscation of Colorado citizens guns. The Democrats and gun controllers think that we are unaware of the outcome that they want, which is a totally unarmed populace. All to control the people of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>James Swanson El Paso County Citizen Member of the Rocky Mountain Gun Owners</p>
<p>David Aglietti Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is not a continuation of the magazine capacity limitation, which is itself not a law which was intended to reduce crime, but rather a way to incrementally chip away at firearms ownership. This is a wide-scale, poorly-conceived ban on the most commonly sold rifles in Colorado, which would be much worse than the two previously defeated "assault" weapons bans. This is far more draconian and obvious in its intentions. This bill does not seek to reduce crime, but again is intended only to further reduce the ability of Coloradans to exercise their constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms, which includes the ability to buy and sell them. This law will most certainly lose in the court system while wasting millions of our tax payer dollars in its futile defense.</p>
<p>Collin Perryman Against themselves</p>	<p>I am absolutely against this bill. Time and time again we find ourselves fighting to keep our rights in this state and time and time again we waste tax dollars on a ban that will not and has not worked to solve the real problem which is violence. What we should be asking ourselves is why people feel the need to commit such acts of violence which we are all greatly saddened by. Unfortunately our government and selected leaders have squandered this question and deploy useless "fixes" to calm the masses and to disguise the act of doing something to make a real change. Banning firearms in any capacity is not the solution. They are but objects. Objects which law abiding citizens have every right to own and possess for the protection of life, property and liberty. To start answering why violence persists we must ask ourselves what road leads a person to commit such acts. Examples such as cost of</p>

	<p>living, poor healthcare, massive inflation, the constant battering of our mental states by negative media on a 24 hour cycle, growing up in an unstable and abusive environment, these are just a few examples I could think of quickly and not even close to all the reasons that perpetuate in our country. Please stop with the nonsense on banning firearms. It will not work, it has not worked in any capacity. Please start asking yourselves the hard questions of why these acts continue to happen in our country and our state.</p>
<p>Tyler Alexander Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB25-003. While I respect the need to address public safety concerns, this bill represents an overly broad and misguided approach that infringes upon the rights of responsible firearm owners while failing to adequately address the root causes of violence.</p> <p>1. Infringement on Constitutional Rights</p> <p>SB25-003 undermines the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens by imposing sweeping restrictions on commonly owned firearms. The specified semiautomatic firearms targeted by this bill are used by millions of Americans for lawful purposes such as self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. This legislation unfairly penalizes responsible gun owners without addressing the actions of individuals who commit crimes.</p> <p>2. Impact on Public Safety</p> <p>Restricting access to certain firearms does little to deter criminals, who by definition do not abide by the law. Instead of preventing crime, SB25-003 risks leaving law-abiding citizens defenseless. Policies that focus on enforcement against illegal gun trafficking and stricter penalties for violent offenses are more effective in addressing public safety concerns without infringing on individual rights.</p> <p>3. Economic Consequences</p> <p>The bill places unnecessary burdens on firearm manufacturers, dealers, and small businesses in Colorado. The revocation of state firearm dealer permits for violations and the expanded classifications of dangerous weapons could result in job losses and economic harm to industries that support local communities. This would disproportionately impact small business owners who rely on firearm sales for their livelihoods.</p> <p>4. Lack of Evidence-Based Solutions</p>

	<p>SB25-003 does not adequately address the root causes of violence, such as mental health issues, socioeconomic disparities, and lack of community resources. Legislators should prioritize evidence-based solutions, such as mental health services, violence prevention programs, and community engagement, rather than imposing blanket firearm restrictions that punish law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>5. Vague and Overbroad Definitions</p> <p>The bill's language regarding "specified semiautomatic firearms" and "rapid-fire devices" is vague and overbroad, creating significant confusion for firearm owners and enforcement agencies alike. This lack of clarity risks criminalizing individuals who unknowingly violate provisions of the law and could lead to inconsistent enforcement.</p> <p>In conclusion, SB25-003 fails to strike a balance between protecting public safety and upholding the constitutional rights of Coloradans. It imposes unnecessary restrictions on responsible gun owners, places undue economic burdens on small businesses, and fails to address the underlying factors contributing to violence in our communities.</p> <p>I urge you to oppose SB25-003 and instead focus on targeted, evidence-based solutions that respect the rights of all Coloradans while enhancing public safety.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tyler Alexander</p>
<p>Kristina Shiber Against themselves</p>	<p>Being a Single Female in Colorado being able to to defend myself constitutionally is my right and necessity. You already taxed us low income earners out from being able to defend our selves in so many ways and it still has zero positive outcome. all these laws do is fill pockets. Treating Law abiding citizens with American Birth rights to bare arms as criminals is abhorrent. Taking action against criminals is a must, Not a slap on the wrist to repeat offenders. This law will cause more death and destruction against law abiding citizens trying to defend them selves. Find another way. You will not tread on our rights, freedoms, and means to defend our selves and hunt legally. This Bill is not just selfish it is discriminatory against the people and the constitution that built this land and the people that defend the rights of this land. Pushing this law will have more terrible consequences than good. After all the strict gun laws that turned this once amazing state to the top 3 most dangerous state in the country to live in has failed its citizens more than it has ever helped. Putting the people that put you in your positions in harms way is on your hands. I can not in good faith sit back</p>

	<p>and watch our rights be stripped away constantly by these laws infringing on good people. I will fight, the people will not take this. We will come for all your positions. This needs to be shot down. Learn from your failures, you have enough to chose from. Sincerely, a Colorado American Citizen.</p>
<p>John Leger Against themselves</p>	<p>Most Respected Colorado Senators,</p> <p>The Colorado magazine capacity restriction (high capacity/large capacity is an incredibly vague and misleading term). The proposed law is unconstitutional in consideration of the NY State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association v. Bruen SCOTUS decision.</p> <p>The decision in Bruen created a clear standard for evaluating firearm laws and regulations: Any restriction must be consistent with the nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation at the time of the Founding.</p> <p>All magazine laws restricting capacities fail this test for several reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No Historical Basis. Magazine capacity limits lack historical precedent. During the Founding era and the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (states infringing on our fundamental rights), firearms capable of firing multiple rounds existed, yet there were no laws limiting their capacity.</li> <li>2. Impact on Self-Defense. The Heller decision affirmed self-defense as the Second Amendment’s core. Magazine limits arbitrarily restrict how many rounds individuals “need,” hindering their ability to protect themselves effectively, particularly against multiple attackers or prolonged threats.</li> </ol> <p>While not ubiquitously accepted, but the Second Amendment exists because the Founding Fathers knew governments become tyrannical. The 2A keeps government tyranny in check. Self defense against tyranny.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Common Use. Heller and Bruen protect firearms and accessories in common use by citizens. Magazines over 15 rounds are standard for modern firearms and widely used for self-defense, sport shooting, and hunting. Magazines holding 20, 30 and even 50 rounds were available for over 100 years.</li> <li>4. No Safety Benefit: Magazine size restrictions don’t reduce crime or mass shootings. There is no empirical evidence proving they do. Laws infringing on constitutional rights without proven public safety benefits fail under Bruen.</li> </ol>

	<p>Colorado's magazine ban is an infringement on our Second Amendment Rights. It is unconstitutional and its time as a state law is limited.</p> <p>I urge you to vote against this unconstitutional proposed law.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>John Leger</p>
<p>George Buchholz Against themselves</p>	<p>As a progressive who is part of a fast-growing group of liberal gun owners, I am strongly against this bill. This is such a needlessly harsh and strict bill, and would only serve to hurt legal gun owners, Colorado gun stores, competition shooters, and hunters. There are no criminals who would be hurt by this bill, but law-abiding citizens and our state economy would be deeply affected.</p> <p>Not only are there no rifles in existence that meet the stringent requirements of this bill, but such a weapon--even if it did exist--would be ineffective in self defense situations, and would moreover be downright dangerous for gun owners to properly clear malfunctions, keep clean, and operate.</p> <p>In self defense situations, citizens abiding by this bill would be at a huge disadvantage. If their gun malfunctioned and had a permanently attached magazine, they would be helpless to defend themselves while their attacker (who would undoubtedly have an illegally obtained weapon with a detachable magazine) would have the upper hand. With crime in Colorado going up (for example, the recent case of 14 suspects in Aurora being arrested for home invasion, stabbing, and kidnapping) this feels like a tone-deaf attempt to solve a problem that doesn't exist by punishing law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Similarly, competition shooters would find themselves all but unable to compete with a gun like the one described in this bill.</p> <p>I also think it's important to note that, to my understanding, none of this bill's sponsors or proponents even participated in its writing. It was provided by a third-party organization, and thus is not tailored to the needs of Coloradoans. Instead, it is a politically motivated bill that will help no one and hurt millions of Colorado residents.</p> <p>Additionally, it's disgusting how the bill specifically gives police officers and active duty members of the military an exemption, even for their own personal guns. This means that not only do Colorado taxpayers have to fund the police and military; they</p>

	<p>also have to stand by as they remain exempt from a blatant violation of our constitutional rights. The only reason for such an exemption would be because legislators recognize that guns with detachable magazines are useful and safe, so why should citizens be barred from owning those guns?</p> <p>Finally, the fact that this bill gives the Attorney General the power to retroactively make changes to the types of guns that are banned is simply an abuse of power. This sets a terrifying precedent, not just in Colorado but in America, wherein it's permissible for legislators and officials to change laws as they please regardless of what the people they represent want and need.</p> <p>I hope that this bill does not pass, and that Colorado will continue to be a free and just state for all its residents.</p>
<p>Ethan Coyhis Against himself</p>	<p>I disagree with this bill. How many Coloradans own firearms that use them appropriately compared to criminals? How many undocumented immigrants that can potentially cause harm are in our state now? Criminal activity by multiple attackers has been on an uptick through time. Being able to defend yourself accordingly is extremely important, especially with unpredictable external variables. I live in the mountains. Being able to carry a sufficient firearm is necessary up here. It's in the Constitution that we have the right to bear arms, which was put in place to make sure that we are able to defend ourselves against the government, should it ever come to that. I have no intent to use my firearm inappropriately, nor should I be punished for how people feel about them. I want to be able to be self-sufficient when it comes to home security, as well as in the woods. We don't need Californians dictating Colorado's politics. Keep guns in Colorado! Don't tread on us!!</p>
<p>Eric Jeffery Against himself</p>	<p>Guns don't murder, people murder. More guns, less crime as consistently proven by sociologists John Lott and Gary Kleck. Criminals don't abide by gun restrictions. All this proposed ban does is turn law abiding citizens into outlaws.</p> <p>Tragedy happens, don't disarm the innocent which allows for potentially more crime. The only thing that stops a criminal with a gun is a good guy with a gun.</p> <p>Stop persecuting and trying to turn law abiding citizens into criminals. Every year we have to fight, spend money, and take time to prevent ineffective and unconstitutional (Bruen, Heller, McDonald) gun laws in the Colorado legislature. Find better things to spend your time on.</p> <p>Eric Jeffery Colorado Native, Angel, and Buffalo Elizabeth, CO 80107</p>

<p>Joshua Barnett Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is as blatantly unconstitutional and opposite the entire reason that the 2nd Amendment was included in our great nation's Constitution that it should be criminal to even begin to consider supporting it. "Shall not be infringed" means that elected representatives have zero say in abridging our natural right to defend ourselves against any tyranny, be that of the criminal, the foreign soldier, or representatives of our own government that seek to violate our other rights. It saddens me to say that I expect that the violation of our other rights is the unspoken true intent of this bill. Please prove me wrong by it's withdrawal.</p>
<p>Samuel Rockinger Against themselves</p>	<p>I believe that the regulation of specific types of firearms is not only an infringement on our constitutional rights, but will not accomplish what it is believed to. States whom have passed similar legislation in the past have not seen significant decreases in gun violence. Research states that it is not the type of firearm that is linked to the level of gun violence, but who has access to the firearm. Research has shown that states whom focus legislation related to who may own a firearm and focus on providing more aid to those with mental illnesses have less firearm violence.</p>
<p>Erik Waldrop Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill will severely restrict usage of firearms owned by the majority of the public. This will hamper our ability to protect ourselves. As a member of law enforcement I see no benefit from this bill to the general public or myself and my family. We need to enforce current laws on the books to restrict individuals from accessing weapons they are already prohibited from having. Please go back and look at the perpetrator of these crimes and look at if there are other mitigating issues, to include mental status.</p> <p>Limiting gun ownership will cause more problems than they will solve. The laws are pretty comprehensive and we need to be harder on criminals.</p> <p>Your legislation currently benefits the criminal not the law abiding citizen. Your prosecution of the offenders is not enough to discourage them from committing crimes. Get tougher on crime and you will see this change.</p>
<p>Gilbert Esparza Against themselves</p>	<p>I believe everyone is entitled to the right to defend themselves from unlawful individuals. This only hurts law abiding individuals who obey the law. As well as everyone's right to bear arms.</p>
<p>Svitlana Mooney Against themselves</p>	<p>Do not ban any guns. Instead of be socialists, focus on removing real crime from Colorado. Respect responsible citizens who train to use protective and sport guns. Do not rice tax on guns sale. Focus on advising people to be responsible. Honor municipal police.</p>
<p>Jonathan Witt Against</p>	<p>Dear Senators,</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>The unconstitutional attacks on our God-given rights as Americans continue in this 75th Assembly. The Supreme Court of the United States has been clear in its rulings regarding the Second Amendment: firearms in common use cannot be outlawed on a whim. There is no historical analogue for the reprehensible efforts contained in this bill (NYSRPA v. Bruen) and the attempt to prohibit the most popular type of firearm sold and possessed today ("common use" District of Columbia v. Heller) make this a clear violation of the Constitution that you have sworn to uphold. Furthermore, Section 6 of the bill grants the Attorney General the power to provide "guidance" on specific firearms not already prohibited by the bill, presumably at any date in the future, thereby creating the potential for a blanket ban on all semi-automatic firearms used for hunting, sport, and self-defense. This bill is facially unconstitutional.</p> <p>As your constituent, I urge you to oppose this bill, spare our state coffers the expense of defending it, and you personally the shame of becoming a traitor of the Republic for enabling it.</p> <p>For Freedom,</p> <p>JW Broomfield, CO</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>If passed, SB25-003 would blanket the state with bans on semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that accept detachable magazines, gas-operated semi-automatic pistols capable of accepting the same, and even rapid-fire devices like bump stocks. It hands unchecked power to the Attorney General, allowing vague, convoluted language to define our rights further.</p> <p>This legislation is misguided and is an orchestrated experiment fueled by Bloomberg's Everytown, with Colorado as its unwitting testing ground. Bloomberg's lobbyists are lurking in the halls of the state Capitol in Denver, peddling the deceitful notion to Democrat lawmakers that this bill will "Close the State's High-Capacity Magazine Ban Loophole" while insisting it is not a gun ban at all. This manipulation of truth has been alarmingly effective, tricking those naive lawmakers who previously opposed this bill into becoming co-sponsors, revealing a chilling disregard for the principles that should guide our laws and protect our freedoms.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," and Colorado's Constitution affirms that no person's right to bear arms shall be questioned. Gun bans violate both constitutions and have proven ineffective at reducing crime. Instead they criminalize law-abiding firearm owners for possessing arbitrarily labeled "dangerous" weapons. The Supreme Court's Bruen Decision restricts laws that do not align with the historical context of the Second Amendment.</p>

	<p>With unwavering conviction, I strongly urge you to OPPOSE SB25-003, the insidious repackaging of the 2024 "Assault Weapons Ban."</p>
<p>brant pastore Against themselves</p>	<p>The 2025 Colorado assault weapon ban is a direct attack on the rights of law-abiding citizens, particularly those who are poor and marginalized. The ban specifically targets firearms with features like detachable magazines and gas-operated actions—criteria that encompass the vast majority of modern rifles, shotguns, and even many handguns. These firearms are not inherently more dangerous; they are simply common and widely used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. For those with limited financial means, these types of firearms often represent the most affordable and practical option for personal protection. By banning them, the law effectively prices the poor out of their constitutional right to self-defense, creating a two-tiered system where only the wealthy can afford the tools necessary to protect themselves.</p> <p>Even more troubling is that this legislation doesn't actually address gun violence. Criminals don't follow laws; they obtain firearms through illegal means, making these bans irrelevant to those who would commit harm. Additionally, the law's inclusion of trigger modifications as "dangerous weapons" is misleading. Techniques like bump-firing, which don't require special equipment, can achieve similar rates of fire as modified triggers. This highlights how the law fails to distinguish between criminal misuse and lawful ownership. Instead of reducing gun crime, it burdens responsible citizens, leaving them defenseless while pretending to solve a problem it cannot fix. This isn't just ineffective—it's unethical and a blatant infringement on the Second Amendment, which was designed to ensure the rights of all citizens, not just those who can afford legal workarounds.</p>
<p>DALE ELLIOTT Against themselves</p>	<p>I am opposed to this steady encroachment by the democratic party against on our constitutional rights as citizens to bear arms. This senate bill is too broad. It is on the level of stopping citizens from buying bread or milk.</p> <p>dale elliot Lt Col, USAF (p) RETIRED</p>
<p>Danny Fero Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Danny Fero, a former US Army SSG and former Federal Protective Service Police Patrol Sgt/ Firearms Instructor/ Agency Armorer. I am submitting testimony today regarding SB25-003.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that I am compelled to write to you today concerning SB25-003, a so-called extension of the current Colorado Magazine ban. As a former Federal Law Enforcement Officer with the Federal Protective Service/Agency Armorer and Firearms Instructor I find this bill to be unconstitutional and in violation of civil rights in as much it concerns firearms rights of the citizens of Colorado.</p>

I have read and re-read SB25-003 and have come to the conclusion that whoever wrote this bill has no idea what they are even talking about, or that they are being disingenuous and deliberately misleading the public concerning the true nature of this bill. The bill describes "approved" types of firearms which have no "detachable" magazines and "must" only have no more than 15 rounds. Currently there are no firearms of this nature on the market, in development or in the design phase that can meet the bill's requirements. This makes it impossible for law abiding citizens to comply. The bill would make a "statutory" law and is not one that addresses "mala in se" crimes. The bill does not respect the freedoms guaranteed by the US Constitution in any way shape or form, thus it is repugnant to the US Constitution.

There is also a section that allows the Atty General to "redefine" unilaterally, the definitions of firearms, magazines and all technical aspects relating to the firearms in question. This means that the bill (law) would be able to be modified by a bureaucrat without the oversight by the legislature. This means that any political agenda could be enforced by decree outside the actions of the legislature. That is not a representational republic, that is the action of a "banana republic type dictatorship".

It is a well-known fact that "gun laws" do little to stem crime as the clinical definition of "criminal" is someone that does not obey the law in the first place. The cities and states with the strictest gun laws tend to have the worst gun crime. Any new gun law should address the crime and its punishment not some misguided attempt at preventing crime. For example, If a person unlawfully harms, kills or maims another person with a firearm, have draconian penalties for that crime. This way the "law" or "ban" does not infringe on law abiding citizens. It only affects the criminal.

In addition, I take great issue with the term "assault weapon/rifle" as it does not reflect reality, only a political agenda and stance created to evoke emotional response in the public and not the truth. If truth be known, ANY weapon/tool/device can be an "assault weapon" if it is used in assault. If you use a hammer to beat someone, it's an "Assault Hammer"; if you use a truck to run over someone, it's an "Assault Vehicle", if you use a toaster tossed into a bathtub to electrocute someone, it's an "Assault Toaster". The most important fact is that the user of the weapon "is" the assault weapon. It is the intent of the shooter that is the cause, not the weapon. Punish the criminal not the law-abiding public.

I would request that when this bill is discussed in a hearing that you shelve the bill immediately. It does not serve the people; it serves a political agenda that promotes removal of freedom from the people, and it will make felons out of many law-abiding citizens who have committed no crime. It will stop no criminal or criminal act. All it will do is violate the civil rights of law-abiding citizens.

If the bill is passed and signed into law it will be facing relentless lawsuits from the firearms community. I and many other law-abiding citizens would support those lawsuits. Please don't let outside money and influence violate our rights. We know

	<p>where the money comes from, who actually wrote the particular aspects that the bill was constructed around and NO ONE outside of Colorado should be influencing our legislature to get laws passed that don't reflect the actual needs of Colorado.</p> <p>Personally, I am considering moving to a state that does not have this foolish agenda should this bill become law. I've lived and worked here in Colorado since 1980. I love Colorado, but the Colorado I know, and love is being turned into a failed state just like California. I'm 71 years old, please don't force an old man that has served his country and it's people to leave a place he loves.</p> <p>Please do your duty to us, the citizens of Colorado and not to a political agenda that violates our rights.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,                  Danny Fero</p>
<p>Chase Walker                  Against                  himself</p>	<p>I am writing as a concerned citizen, constituent, military veteran, and local law enforcement officer regarding SB25-003, which proposes additional restrictions on gun ownership and usage. I urge you to prioritize the voices of the people you represent over political pressures.</p> <p>While I share the goal of reducing violence in our communities, additional gun regulations are unlikely to address the root causes of these issues. We already have laws prohibiting violent acts such as shooting or killing, yet individuals intent on committing such acts disregard these laws. Introducing further regulations that criminals will similarly ignore does little to enhance public safety.</p> <p>Mass shootings like Columbine and others are often cited as justification for restrictive firearm legislation. However, the existing laws prohibiting violence did not prevent those tragedies, nor will new regulations deter individuals determined to cause harm. Additionally, SB25-003 focuses only on future sales and ownership, while millions of firearms already exist nationwide. Those intent on causing harm will find a way, regardless of new restrictions. This bill would only increase government bureaucracy, waste taxpayer dollars, and place undue burdens on law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Efforts to reduce violence should instead target its underlying causes. This includes investing in mental health resources, expanding community outreach programs, and strengthening law enforcement's ability to proactively intervene. Such initiatives have a far greater potential to prevent violence than redundant or overly restrictive firearm laws, which risk being both ineffective and counterproductive.</p>

	<p>For instance, SB 21-271 reduced the consequences for felons found in possession of firearms. In practice, this has negatively impacted efforts to curb firearm violence. It is perplexing that the legislature would make it less consequential for criminals to possess firearms while now proposing restrictions that penalize law-abiding citizens. Such contradictory measures undermine public confidence in the legislature's ability to enact meaningful change.</p> <p>As a law enforcement officer working in the Denver metro area, I can attest that additional gun laws will not address the violence affecting our state. I see this reality daily in my work. New regulations will not impact those who already obtain guns illegally, which the DOJ found to be the case for 80% of criminals in a 1997 study—a figure that remains relevant today. Cities like Chicago, with some of the strictest gun laws in the country, continue to experience significant gun violence, further demonstrating the ineffectiveness of such measures.</p> <p>I urge you to focus on actionable solutions that address the true drivers of violence and crime. Strengthening law enforcement's ability to enforce existing laws, many of which already prohibit violent acts regardless of weapon type, would be a far more effective approach.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will weigh these concerns carefully and advocate for measures that deliver real results in enhancing public safety.</p>
<p>Andrew Molt Against themselves</p>	<p>"Honorable members of the committee,</p> <p>I stand before you today not just as an amputee, but as someone who values their right to safety and security. I want to emphasize that my perspective is shaped by both my disability and my lived experiences, which I believe are often overlooked in discussions about gun control.</p> <p>As a shoulder disarticulation amputee (I am missing my entire left arm), I have physical limitations that many others may not experience. Simple tasks that many people take for granted, such as carrying items, opening doors or simply protecting myself in high stress situations, are more difficult or sometimes next to impossible for me. This makes me vulnerable in ways that others might not fully understand. If I were to find myself in a dangerous situation, I would be at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to protecting myself.</p> <p>I firmly believe in responsible gun ownership, and I don't advocate for anyone to have unrestricted access to firearms without proper training and regulations. However, I do believe that it is essential for individuals with disabilities like myself to have access to firearms for self-defense. In the event of an emergency, where my physical abilities are already compromised, the ability to defend myself with a firearm could mean the difference between life and death.</p>

	<p>There is a very real threat for those of us with disabilities: we are often seen as easier targets for criminal behavior because of our limited abilities. Whether at home, in public, or during travel, the reality is that we might be less able to physically escape or overpower an attacker. Gun control laws that severely limit access to firearms would disproportionately affect people like me, making us even more vulnerable. I have personally experienced this in my life.</p> <p>Furthermore, I understand that the conversation around gun control often focuses on preventing violent crime, but it is also important to recognize that the disabled community is among the most at-risk when it comes to personal safety. We need to have the means to protect ourselves, just as anyone else would. To restrict our access to firearms would be to deny us the right to safeguard our lives in a world where we already face significant challenges.</p> <p>Here are just a few supporting thoughts from an amputee's perspective:</p> <p>1. Accessibility and Adaptability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Easier to Operate with One Hand:</b> Semiautomatic firearms, compared to bolt-action or lever-action rifles, are more practical for someone with a single arm, as they typically do not require as much manual manipulation. The recoil is generally more manageable in a semiautomatic, and the user does not need to manually cycle the action after each shot, which could be difficult or impossible for someone with one hand.</li> <li>• <b>Reduced Effort for Reloading:</b> A semiautomatic firearm generally has a magazine that allows for multiple rounds to be loaded at once, making reloading more efficient than single-shot firearms or revolvers. For someone with an amputation, this could be a crucial advantage in terms of reducing the physical effort required.</li> </ul> <p>2. Self-Defense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased Confidence in Personal Security:</b> For an individual who may feel physically vulnerable due to their disability, a semiautomatic firearm could provide a sense of security. The ability to fire multiple rounds with minimal effort could be essential in a self-defense scenario where one might be facing a threat and may not have the physical strength to operate a more complex or slower-action firearm.</li> <li>• <b>Lower Risk of Malfunctions:</b> Semiautomatic firearms are typically designed to be more reliable and less prone to mechanical issues that might impede function when under stress. For someone who may have limited physical mobility, having a reliable tool for defense could be of great importance.</li> </ul> <p>3. Independence and Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Freedom of Action:</b> Owning and using a semiautomatic firearm could provide a sense of empowerment for an amputee, offering a way to maintain autonomy over their personal safety. The ability to use a firearm without needing external assistance might help individuals reclaim their confidence and independence.</li> <li>• <b>Versatility for Different Activities:</b> Beyond self-defense, semiautomatic firearms can be used for sport shooting and hunting, which could provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to engage in recreational activities in an</li> </ul>
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	<p>accessible way. The ease of firing and reloading might make such activities more practical and enjoyable.</p> <p>4. Customizable Modifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptations to Fit the User's Needs: Semiautomatic firearms can often be modified with accessories like custom grips, trigger modifications, and bipods to make them easier to handle for those with physical disabilities. Some firearms may also be fitted with alternative controls, such as a thumb-activated trigger or a custom stock, making them more accessible for an amputee.</li> </ul> <p>5. Simplicity and Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarity and Consistency: Many semiautomatic firearms are designed to be intuitive and consistent in their operation. This can be beneficial for someone with an amputation, as it would reduce the learning curve and allow the user to focus on technique and safety rather than complex mechanical operations.</li> <li>Reduced Recoil Management: Some semiautomatic firearms are built with recoil reduction technologies, which might help someone with one arm manage the firearm more effectively. This would make it easier to maintain control over the firearm and prevent injury during shooting.</li> </ul> <p>These points have not even touched on the second amendment points that I feel should be discussed, I think there will be lots of others that will bring those points up.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the unique needs of disabled individuals when drafting and passing gun legislation. We should not be punished for seeking the same security and safety that others enjoy. Instead, let's focus on finding ways to make responsible gun ownership possible for everyone—no matter their abilities or disabilities—while ensuring that public safety is maintained.</p> <p>Thank you."</p> <p>Andrew Molt</p> <p>Concerned Citizen</p> <p>Akron Colorado</p> <p>Senate District 1</p> <p>House District 63</p>
<p>Keaton Baker</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to Colorado SB25-003, a bill that represents one of the most sweeping and misguided attacks on Second Amendment rights in the history of our state. This legislation not only infringes upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens, but it is also based on a deeply flawed and uneducated understanding of firearms.</p> <p>Key Concerns About SB25-003</p> <p>A Broad and Unprecedented Ban:</p>

	<p>SB25-003 proposes to ban nearly all semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that accept detachable magazines, as well as certain pistols. This extreme and overly broad approach far exceeds anything seen in other states. Unlike laws in California or Maryland that focus on specific features, SB25-003 indiscriminately targets entire categories of firearms. This would eliminate access to commonly owned firearms, which are crucial for personal protection, sport shooting, and hunting.</p> <p>Misrepresentation of Intentions:</p> <p>The sponsors of this bill claim it is meant to address “high-capacity magazine loopholes,” but the text clearly reveals its intent to eliminate semi-automatic firearms entirely. This deceptive framing undermines public trust and insults the intelligence of Colorado citizens.</p> <p>Unintended Safety Risks:</p> <p>By forcing citizens to rely on firearms with fixed magazines, the bill introduces significant safety concerns. Fixed magazines are far more difficult to safely unload, increasing the risk of accidental discharges. Law-abiding gun owners, especially those unfamiliar with these platforms, may resort to dangerous methods of clearing firearms—leading to accidents and injuries.</p> <p>Ineffectiveness in Reducing Violent Crime:</p> <p>Data does not support the idea that banning semi-automatic firearms reduces violent crime. Despite 23 gun control laws passed in Colorado over the past decade, the state’s violent crime rates have risen significantly. Rifles and shotguns, which are the focus of this legislation, are used in an infinitesimally small percentage of crimes. This bill will do nothing to address the root causes of violence in our communities.</p> <p>Unconstitutional Overreach:</p> <p>SB25-003 is a blatant infringement on the rights protected by the Second Amendment. It will undoubtedly face legal challenges that could cost taxpayers millions. Colorado’s resources would be better spent on proven solutions to reduce crime, rather than enacting laws destined to fail in the courts.</p> <p>Economic and Practical Consequences:</p> <p>The bill’s sweeping restrictions will have dire consequences for Colorado’s hunting, shooting sports, and firearm industries. Additionally, panic buying caused by such extreme measures will flood the market with more firearms in the short term—contradicting the bill’s supposed intent.</p> <p>A Call to Action</p>
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	<p>This legislation represents a dangerous and ill-conceived attempt to erode the rights of Colorado residents. I urge you to oppose SB25-003 and stand with the countless law-abiding citizens who responsibly own and use firearms.</p> <p>Instead of targeting law-abiding citizens, Colorado lawmakers should focus on addressing the root causes of violence, such as mental health issues, community intervention programs, and holding criminals accountable for their actions.</p> <p>Governor Polis and the state legislature have an opportunity to chart a path toward effective, evidence-based solutions. I hope you will reject this misguided legislation and advocate for policies that respect constitutional rights while enhancing public safety.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter your commitment to preserving the rights of Colorado’s citizens.</p> <p>Sincerely, Keaton Baker</p>
<p>Miguel David Against themselves</p>	<p>Another attempt at violation the constitution and our 2nd amendment. Instead of stopping criminals and using our tax money effectively, you guys chose to criminalize law abiding citizens and make defending ourselves from criminals illegal. Stop wasting our tax money and our time with these useless attempts at going against the 2nd amendment. Focus on stopping real crime, preventing criminals from harming others, and actually enforce the law. This is the worst bill to come out yet and you will get voted out by the people for these extremist bills you try and push on us. These don’t stop crime, there is no data that this will stop crime and gun violence, so stop trying to punish the law abiding citizens.</p>
<p>Stace Riley Against themselves</p>	<p>The second amendment is pretty clear. "...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed." That should be the end of the story.</p> <p>As a citizen of Colorado, I strongly OPPOSE this proposed bill for several reasons that go beyond just legal arguments:</p> <p>This bill feels like an infringement on our fundamental rights. The Second Amendment isn't just about hunting or sport; it's about having the means to protect ourselves, our families, and our property. If this law passes, it is like the government is telling us we can't be trusted with our own safety. Here in Colorado, many of us live in rural areas where law enforcement can be minutes or even hours away. Semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines are practical for self-defense against wildlife or in situations where every second counts. This bill would leave us less prepared to handle real-life threats.</p>

	<p>Also, criminals don't follow laws. If we ban these types of firearms, only law-abiding citizens will comply, leaving us defenseless while criminals continue to arm themselves however they see fit. This isn't about reducing crime; it's about disarming the good guys. Many of us grew up with these firearms as part of our culture, whether for competitive shooting, hunting, or simply enjoying time at the range with friends and family. This bill is an attack on our way of life, our traditions, and recreational activities that bring communities together. This law would hurt local gun shops, ranges, and manufacturers. These businesses support local economies, provide jobs, and contribute to community life. The ripple effect of this bill could be devastating for small businesses that have been here for generations.</p> <p>The exceptions in the bill seem arbitrary. Why can I give my firearm to an heir but not to a neighbor who might need it for protection? This doesn't make sense and seems more about control than safety.</p> <p>The bill targets specific types of firearms but doesn't address the root causes of gun violence like mental health, crime, or illegal gun trafficking. Instead of banning guns, we should be investing in education, mental health services, and law enforcement to tackle these issues more effectively. There's a real concern that this bill might actually reduce public safety. By limiting the types of firearms available, you're potentially making it harder for people to defend themselves in a crisis. What's more, with the focus on certain firearms, there's less attention on broader safety measures that could genuinely help.</p> <p>As a citizen, I believe we have a responsibility to be educated about our rights and to stand up when they're threatened. This bill feels like an overreach, an attempt to legislate based on fear rather than fact. We should be focusing on solutions that respect our rights while addressing real problems, not on measures that strip us of our ability to protect ourselves.</p> <p>This bill feels like an overstep, one that doesn't genuinely address safety but rather aims to control what law-abiding citizens can own.</p> <p>As someone who values freedom, safety, and community, I urge our lawmakers to reconsider this approach and look for solutions that don't compromise our constitutional rights.</p>
<p>Jeremiah Demuth Against himself</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Senate State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>My name is Jeremiah Demuth, and I have been a resident of Colorado since the summer of 1991. I have learned to walk, sled, ski, drive, and hunt in this beautiful</p>

	<p>state, have owned homes in both Park and Jefferson counties, and am now blessed with the opportunity to raise my four children in this state.</p> <p>As a resident and taxpayer, I would respectfully propose to you that good laws punish those who do evil and reward those who do good. Conversely, a bad law punishes or restricts those who have done no evil, and does little to impede those with evil intent.</p> <p>SB25-003 fails to reward good on the basis that it attaches criminality to mere possession of items that have, in themselves, no moral quality. This restricts those who have done no harm to their neighbor by prohibiting the transfer, sale, or acquisition of arms which may be beneficial to their legitimate interests. For instance, I hunt with a magazine fed, semi-automatic rifle chambered in .308. It is accurate, ergonomic, and effective for taking large game. Is it just to prevent others from doing the same because of the actions of criminals? Likewise, smaller semiautomatic rifles and large-frame pistols can be extremely effective for women or those sensitive to recoil for the legitimate purposes of self-defense, small game hunting, and target shooting. Is it just to tell women such as my wife and daughters that they have no right to obtain effective tools for their own protection?</p> <p>SB25-003 also fails to punish evil in any meaningful way. Murder is already illegal. So are armed robbery, rape, carjacking, brandishing, and other violent crimes. Are we, the people who trust in you to govern well, truly supposed to believe that the threat of a class 2 misdemeanor or a class 6 felony will inhibit those who, by intent or by habit, are pursuing much more serious harm against their neighbor? Likewise, given the illustrious example of Chicago or other places where these sorts of restrictions exist, are we really supposed to believe that such a law as this would meaningfully reduce the level of armament possessed by violent criminals?</p> <p>Dear members of the Committee, I am not asking you to refuse to govern. Respectfully, I would ask you to do all that may justly be done to punish those who have committed violent crimes. But SB 25-003 does not accomplish that end; it is merely another law that will ensnare, restrict, and oppress people who have done no wrong, in the vain hope of restraining the truly wicked. Please vote no on SB 25-003.</p> <p>Thank you, Jeremiah Demuth</p>
<p>SHAUN STINNETT Against himself</p>	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed bill in Colorado that seeks to ban detachable magazines, a measure I believe to be both unconstitutional and harmful to the rights of law-abiding citizens. As a resident of this state and a firm believer in the principles laid out in the United States Constitution, I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of such a ban and to vote against this legislation.</p>

	<p>The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and this right is integral to our nation's history and security. A ban on detachable magazines would, in effect, severely restrict that right by limiting the types of firearms that are available for lawful use by citizens. Detachable magazines are standard components for a wide range of firearms, including those used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. To ban these magazines would effectively render many commonly owned firearms unusable, infringing on the rights of law-abiding gun owners who rely on these weapons for personal protection, recreation, and even safety in times of crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, it targets inanimate objects—magazines—rather than the people who misuse them. Such a measure is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on crime rates and will only punish responsible gun owners. It is crucial that we focus on policies that address the actual factors contributing to violence and not merely the tools used by criminals.</p> <p>As elected officials, it is your sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. This proposed bill undermines the very rights it is your responsibility to protect. It will not make Colorado safer but will instead penalize the vast majority of gun owners who abide by the law. The Supreme Court has consistently held that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional right, and legislation that infringes on this right must be scrutinized with great care.</p> <p>I urge you to stand by the Constitution and vote *no* on this bill. The government's role is to protect the freedoms and rights of its citizens, not to infringe upon them. It is critical that we preserve the ability of individuals to lawfully own and operate firearms without unnecessary and unconstitutional restrictions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right decision in defense of our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>Sincerely, Shaun Stinnett</p>
<p>Michelle Gillilan Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing today to voice my utmost disgust at SB25-003 "Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid Fire Devices." Everything about this bill is a violation of our 2nd Amendment Rights. It is unconstitutional. If passed this will make my hunting rifle, I used this year to harvest an elk to feed my family, illegal. It makes guns in our family that have been passed down for generations illegal and we will not be able to legally pass those on to our kids! Hunting was not on the minds of our forefathers when the constitution was drafted. They had just earned their freedom and knew the risk of an unarmed society and a tyrannical government, which is what we now have in</p>

	<p>Colorado. My right to own the firearm of my choice for protection or providing for myself and my family is my constitutional right.</p> <p>This bill does absolutely nothing to combat crime in this state. Criminals don't obey laws; they laugh at them. This is a gun grab from the far-left ideology, and we are sick of this.</p> <p>November 5th was a true testament to how the voting folks of the USA feel, you will find out in 2026 how these out of touch laws and attempts at disarming us goes. To the sponsors of this bill, I urge you to look outside of your district and understand that you are in this position to represent the entire state of Colorado, you are not in this position to push an ideology of the far left so out of touch with what the citizens of this state want, you have forgotten why government even exists.</p> <p>As a taxpayer of Colorado, employer of 8 people, and owner of two business's directly impacted by this bad legislation I will say I will not stay here and let my rights be taken. Like many business owners in this state, we will be forced to leave. When the employers and taxpayers leave-you have even more of a mess and even less tax dollars to work with. Stop attacking our rights and start working for us. Draft legislation to help us live here affordably. This state is a total wreck led by a bunch of leftist whackos who have no clue what we want. While we go to work, run businesses, and pay taxes and fees set by you, you sit here and make our life miserable. Law after stupid law and fight after fight-to the point I honestly want you all voted out of office. Fired is what each of you should be and ashamed of what you are doing to our state.</p>
<p>Craig Bauer Against themselves</p>	<p>Those whom presume to continue to betray the united States of America and State of Colorado have sponsored this bill and those duly holding official capacity are duly DEMANDED UPON To take these Traitors into custody under this affirmative declaration of Title 18 ss 241usc CONSPIRACY AGAINST RIGHTS in conspiracy against people of the state of Colorado of their inalienable 2nd, 14th and 5th Ammendment rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, AND, such bodies in action of this grievous crime are duly notified that their legislative official immunities are not valid in the order or crimes they have committed and that officers of due resources shall receive these treasonous individuals into custody for a future indictment and trial by a jury of 12 for the aforementioned charges of Conspiracy against constitutional rights.</p>
<p>Keith Emerson Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Keith Emerson and I live in Denver. I am writing in opposition to SB25-003, "Concerning prohibited activity involving semiautomatic firearms, and in connection therewith...". This bill expands on an election year one that was rejected by Democrats during the last session. Talking points for the current bill stress magazine capacity limit enforcement and bump stock bans when in reality the bill proposes to eliminate the sale and most transfers of nearly all semi-automatic firearms with a detachable magazine other than .22 caliber rimfire (and even some of those). It seems especially absurd to justify this bill as headlined in Section 2,18-12-116, "Enforcement of large capacity magazine ban by regulating the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of specified semi-automatic firearms...".</p>

	<p>This bill is unconstitutional and will harm victim’s assistance and school security group financing. It will also make Colorado less safe as criminal firearms will filter into the state while the law abiding will not have access to weapons to defend themselves. Please vote down this bill now.</p> <p>A semi-automatic pistol, the Colt “1911”, was introduced over 100 years ago and is still popular with segments of the military and with civilians. Elimination of the sale of popular semi-auto firearms like this one is blatantly unconstitutional under recent Supreme Court decisions. More focused recent laws in California have been found unconstitutional (with further review pending a 9th Circuit decision on <i>Duncan v. Bonta</i>, where the state has now lost twice, is slow-walked up the chain), New York (a judge has allowed the challenge to the New York law to proceed) are on their way to being found unconstitutional. Maryland is an exception rather than the rule and will trigger a Supreme Court decision. Even Denver’s “Assault Weapons Ban”, originally written in the last century, was eviscerated years ago. Why would the State of Colorado want to get involved at this point? Has the money allocated for court challenges been included in the fiscal note because this bill will be challenged and likely lose.</p> <p>Speaking of the fiscal note, I hope that the effect on sales taxes and the new excise tax is included. The bill’s fiscal note is a better guide, but this prohibition on sales could lower the excise tax take by at least 50-60% and maybe more. Apparently, this has been noticed as Senate Bill 25-059 has very recently been introduced by the sponsor of SB25-003. If passed, SB25-059 would instruct the state to apply to the federal government for funds and is apparently intended to backfill lost revenue from SB25-003. This hope for funding from the new federal administration, where the website of the “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” website was recently removed, is likely unjustified. SB25-059 is also intended only for victims of mass killings, sorry, only for mass shootings, and not the wide range from general mental health services to school security set up in the bill creating the excise tax. There are going to be a lot of unhappy aid organizations if SB25-003 passes, even with this other bill.</p> <p>Please don’t let rhetoric about magazine capacity or rate of fire cloud your judgement about what firearms law-abiding citizens are allowed to purchase for their sport and defense. Before World War I the British used a bolt action rifle that held 10 rounds and was reloaded with 5 round clips in what was called the “Mad Minute”. To qualify, a soldier had to hit a 48-inch square target at 300 yards with a minimum of 15 hits in one minute. The best could do 25 to 30 and a few could do 35. That’s hitting a small target three football fields away once every 2 seconds or so, including reloading, with a bolt action rifle. As for pistols, a man named Jerry Miculek has fired 12 shots from a large caliber revolver in under 3 seconds, including reloading.</p> <p>Please also do not justify this bill by claiming it will stop activity that is already illegal, such as the sale, transfer or possession of magazines that can hold more than 15</p>
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	<p>rounds of ammunition. This bill does not address firearm and magazine parts except where they would increase the rate of fire, whatever that means.</p>
<p>Sean Mills Against himself</p>	<p>I am reaching out to express my disapproval of the SB25-003 bill that has been submitted. This bill isn't a "Mag ban" loophole fix, It is a defacto firearms ban and is blatantly unconstitutional. The only people that this bill effects are law abiding citizens. I am a veteran of the US Army and have served my country to the best of my abilities. This bill goes against the freedoms that I signed on the dotted line to protect. Everyone in service swears to defend and uphold the constitution of the United States of America, the 2nd amendment is a critical component of that. Armed citizens were the original founding fathers and protesters that gave us the freedom to even have this debate. It is incredibly concerning to see the state move in this direction. There are no firearms in circulation that meet the wording of this bill. Some firearm part manufactures have already stopped selling all goods to Colorado residents. The entire state is not Denver. Stop making sweeping laws that effect people with different ways of life.</p> <p>The carve out for LEO and "Active duty" Military exemption is despicable. It marks anybody else as second-class citizens as far as access to self-defense tools are concerned.</p> <p>The ability to change definitions later on is also concerning. The mere existence of this bill means that further restrictions will be on the way.</p> <p>The rifle is the ultimate form of protest, once it is given up it cannot be taken back. The state should never have a monopoly on violence.</p> <p>How easy history is to forget.</p>
<p>Gabriel Hughes Against himself</p>	<p>As a voting constituent of Colorado, I cannot express enough how detrimental this bill would be to the constitutional freedoms of Coloradans. This bill is completely unsupported by the data, which shows that "Rifles – the category that includes guns sometimes referred to as 'assault weapons' – were involved in 3% of firearm murders."</p> <p><a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-us/#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20the%20most%20recent,in%203%25%20of%20firearm%20murders.">https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-us/#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20the%20most%20recent,in%203%25%20of%20firearm%20murders.</a></p> <p>In an ostensible attempt to reduce gun violence, choosing to restrict legal ownership of one of the types of firearms least occurring in the data would have limited to no benefit, all while restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens. Some rights are absolute, and some can be qualified, but those that ought to be qualified ought to demonstrate strong evidence that the benefit outweighs the harm, which it does not hear. Putting aside any argument of whether the right to purchase semi-automatic</p>

	<p>long guns with detachable magazines ought is absolute or qualifiable. In enacting this bill into law, you would be responsible for abridging the rights of thousands of law-abiding citizens, while having no tangible effect on those who are intent on breaking the law.</p>
<p>Josiah Nierman Against American Hunting and Firearms Services LLC, dba Salida Gunshop</p>	<p>Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003) aims to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, or purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms, including semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazines, as well as gas-operated semiautomatic handguns with detachable magazines. While the bill is intended to enhance public safety, it could have adverse effects on small businesses and rural communities in Colorado. Additionally, the voter-approved excise tax of 6.5%, set to take effect on April 1, 2025, further complicates the financial landscape for these groups.</p> <p><b>**Impact on Small Businesses**</b></p> <p>Firearm retailers, including my own small business, will face significant challenges under SB25-003. The prohibition on selling popular semiautomatic firearms could lead to a substantial decrease in sales, threatening the viability of businesses like mine. The 6.5% excise tax compounds this issue by increasing the cost of firearms and ammunition for both retailers and consumers, potentially reducing demand even further. Additionally, compliance with new regulations may impose financial and administrative burdens that small businesses are less equipped to handle compared to larger corporations.</p> <p><b>**Impact on Rural Communities**</b></p> <p>In rural areas of Colorado, firearms are often integral to daily life, serving purposes such as hunting, pest control, and personal protection. The restrictions imposed by SB25-003 could limit residents' access to commonly used firearms, disrupting traditional practices and lifestyles. The excise tax of 6.5% would disproportionately affect rural residents, who often face higher transportation costs and have limited access to alternative resources. Furthermore, rural communities typically have fewer economic opportunities, and the potential closure of local firearm businesses could exacerbate economic challenges, leading to job losses and reduced local revenue.</p> <p>In conclusion, while SB25-003 is designed with public safety in mind, it is essential to consider its potential economic and cultural impacts on small businesses and rural communities. The added burden of the 6.5% excise tax could further strain these groups, including my business, making it vital to pursue a balanced approach that addresses safety concerns without disproportionately harming vulnerable populations in Colorado.</p>
<p>Eric Bumgarner Against themselves</p>	<p>I am vehemently against the ban of semi-automatic weapons. I find this Bill to be a violation of my Second Amendment rights that "shall not be infringed." The state of Colorado has already over-stepped its bounds by banning magazines of certain</p>

	<p>capacity sizes, so the state should not continue in a direction that further restricts its residents the right to bear arms.</p>
<p>Marc Steinke Against themselves</p>	<p>This is a bad bil and should never have been submitted.</p> <p>I use this type of common firearm for pleasure, self defense and to make a living. Our constitution has made this law un-eligible to govern us in Colorado and anywhere in the United States of America.</p> <p>Please stop 25-003 and keep Colorado the way it always has been.</p>
<p>Tyler Puisello Against themselves</p>	<p>This Bill put forward is an attack not only of the rights of citizens in the state of CO, but also its business owners. There is no definitive proof nor relevant research that the banning of semi automatic firearms correlates to less violence in our communities. NYC, Detroit, and Chicago are great examples that have failed... Gun violence starts in the hands of person committing the crime, not the firearm. So myself, my family, and people in my community are highly against this bill. Due to it leaving us even more defenseless against those who are violent.</p>
<p>Norman David Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is totally against my second admendment rights</p> <p>This will make good law abiding folks that currently have these weapons criminals</p> <p>Overreach VOTE NO!!!!!!</p>
<p>David Aspling Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to ask you to strongly OPPOSE SB25-003. This bill would infringe upon both the Colorado and the United State’s Constitutions’ guarantees to the right to bear arms.</p> <p>I write as a retired federal law enforcement officer of 26 years letting you know that this bill will do nothing to decrease firearms crimes in Colorado. It would only serve to limit law-abiding citizens the right and ability to protect themselves, their families, and their loved ones. Law enforcement can’t be everywhere at once. In fact, most gun encounters and violent crimes are over in seconds. However, law enforcement response times are counted in minutes causing them to usually arrive long after a crime has been committed. Taking away the right of individuals to protect themselves would be so destructive.</p> <p>There are already so many gun laws in existence in Colorado and federally that criminals do not follow. Adding another law will not stop criminals from breaking the law. As much as politicians might like to bask in their legislative prowess and presumed importance, I guarantee you not one single criminal I have ever dealt with cared what laws you pass. They will commit acts that serve themselves.</p>

	<p>Passing this bill would prevent law-abiding citizens such as women, minorities, and the marginalized from being able to purchase a weapon to protect themselves. How foolish does that sound? The authors and supporters of this bill could go down in history as champions against women, minorities, and the marginalized.</p> <p>This bill would be another notch in the belt of the terrible legislature in Colorado that passes bills which make our state less appealing to live in and less safe. I read an article last week stating that Colorado is now the fifth-leading state in the nation for people moving out of the state rather than into the state. At this rate of legislative blunders, we can catch California soon and become the first state in departures. Passing this bill will drive many more to leave the state along with their businesses, dollars, and common sense. Have fun cleaning up the mess if you pass this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, David J. Aspling</p>
<p>Angela Many Against themselves</p>	<p>Colorado seems determined to interfere with gun rights, when what our government needs to do is to prosecute criminals who use guns. That is the best deterrent. And if you're trying to reduce school shootings, have a retired law officer in the school and metal detectors at the doors. Teach kindness and compassion in classes, not divisive CRT/DEI.</p> <p>You are not going to catch every possible malefactor before an event occurs, but if punishment is swift and severe for gun crimes, there will be fewer of them.</p> <p>Quit punishing law-abiding citizens for the acts of others. That is akin to taking cars away from everyone because a few have used them to kill and maim.</p> <p>"... shall not be infringed..." applies to the Colorado legislature as well as to the federal government.</p>
<p>David Mohrbach Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed bill in Colorado that seeks to ban detachable magazines, a measure I believe to be both unconstitutional and harmful to the rights of law-abiding citizens. As a resident of this state and a firm believer in the principles laid out in the United States Constitution, I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of such a ban and to vote against this legislation.</p>

	<p>The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and this right is integral to our nation's history and security. A ban on detachable magazines would, in effect, severely restrict that right by limiting the types of firearms that are available for lawful use by citizens. Detachable magazines are standard components for a wide range of firearms, including those used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. To ban these magazines would effectively render many commonly owned firearms unusable, infringing on the rights of law-abiding gun owners who rely on these weapons for personal protection, recreation, and even safety in times of crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, it targets inanimate objects—magazines—rather than the people who misuse them. Such a measure is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on crime rates and will only punish responsible gun owners. It is crucial that we focus on policies that address the actual factors contributing to violence and not merely the tools used by criminals.</p> <p>As elected officials, it is your sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. This proposed bill undermines the very rights it is your responsibility to protect. It will not make Colorado safer but will instead penalize the vast majority of gun owners who abide by the law. The Supreme Court has consistently held that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional right, and legislation that infringes on this right must be scrutinized with great care.</p> <p>I urge you to stand by the Constitution and vote *no* on this bill. The government's role is to protect the freedoms and rights of its citizens, not to infringe upon them. It is critical that we preserve the ability of individuals to lawfully own and operate firearms without unnecessary and unconstitutional restrictions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right decision in defense of our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>Sincerely,          David Mohrbach          djmohrbach@gmail.com</p>
<p>Owen Sutherland          Against          himself</p>	<p>This ban is not simply a broader extension of the high-capacity magazine ban; it is effectively a prohibition on the most common types of firearms found throughout Colorado. The types of guns that would comply with this bill simply do not exist, and firearm manufacturers have no incentive to redesign or create new firearms to meet these regulations. As a result, this bill effectively bans magazine-fed guns in</p>

	<p>Colorado, which constitutes a direct infringement on Second Amendment rights. Such an infringement is unconstitutional.</p> <p>The claim that this bill will save lives is unsubstantiated. Instead, it will strip citizens of their right to defend themselves with magazine-fed firearms. Furthermore, guns with fixed magazines pose significant safety concerns. They are more difficult to clear safely, increasing the likelihood of negligent discharges as citizens attempt to store their firearms properly. Additionally, in situations involving firearm malfunctions, fixed magazines hinder the ability to efficiently resolve issues, potentially endangering lives in self-defense scenarios.</p> <p>This bill sets a dangerous precedent, initiating a downward spiral in which the rights of the people under the Second Amendment are incrementally eroded. It is imperative to consider the far-reaching implications of such legislation on the safety, autonomy, and constitutional rights of Colorado residents.</p>
<p>JEREMIAH BURGE Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed bill in Colorado that seeks to ban detachable magazines, a measure I believe to be both unconstitutional and harmful to the rights of law-abiding citizens. As a resident of this state and a firm believer in the principles laid out in the United States Constitution, I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of such a ban and to vote against this legislation.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and this right is integral to our nation's history and security. A ban on detachable magazines would, in effect, severely restrict that right by limiting the types of firearms that are available for lawful use by citizens. Detachable magazines are standard components for a wide range of firearms, including those used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. To ban these magazines would effectively render many commonly owned firearms unusable, infringing on the rights of law-abiding gun owners who rely on these weapons for personal protection, recreation, and even safety in times of crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, it targets inanimate objects—magazines—rather than the people who misuse them. Such a measure is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on crime rates and will only punish responsible gun owners. It is crucial that we focus on policies that address the actual factors contributing to violence and not merely the tools used by criminals.</p> <p>As elected officials, it is your sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. This proposed bill undermines the very rights it is your responsibility to protect. It will not make Colorado safer but will instead penalize the vast majority of gun owners who abide by the law. The Supreme Court</p>

	<p>has consistently held that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional right, and legislation that infringes on this right must be scrutinized with great care.</p> <p>I urge you to stand by the Constitution and vote *no* on this bill. The government's role is to protect the freedoms and rights of its citizens, not to infringe upon them. It is critical that we preserve the ability of individuals to lawfully own and operate firearms without unnecessary and unconstitutional restrictions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right decision in defense of our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>Sincerely,                  JEREMIAH D BURGE                  720-323-1770                  j.burge.01@outlook.com                  6912 S. Dover Way                  Littleton CO 80128</p>
<p>Camron Espinoza                  Against                  himself</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado Senate,</p> <p>As a law enforcement officer in this state, I have seen firsthand how well-intentioned laws can sometimes negatively impact law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal behavior. The proposed assault weapons ban is an example of such legislation.</p> <p>The reality is that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. A ban on specific firearms will not stop individuals intent on committing violence. Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program shows that most firearm-related homicides are committed with handguns, not the so-called "assault weapons" targeted by this bill. These firearms, while occasionally used in crimes, represent a statistically insignificant portion of overall gun violence.</p> <p>Rather than restricting the rights of responsible gun owners, we should focus on addressing the root causes of violent crime. Studies consistently show that a small percentage of offenders commit a disproportionate share of violent acts. By increasing penalties for repeat offenders who commit crimes with firearms, we can hold those individuals accountable while preserving the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>In law enforcement, we often say that 5% of the population is responsible for 95% of the crime. This bill takes the opposite approach, placing unnecessary restrictions on</p>

	<p>the 95% of law-abiding citizens in an attempt to address the actions of the small minority responsible for violence. Resources spent enforcing this ban would be better used to hold repeat offenders accountable and implement proven crime prevention strategies.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. Penalizing law-abiding firearm owners, collectors, and competitive shooters will do little to reduce crime. Instead, we should prioritize targeted, effective solutions that address the real drivers of violence without infringing on constitutional rights.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from my professional experience.</p> <p>Sincerely, Camron Espinoza</p>
<p>Michael Singleton Against themselves</p>	<p>Good day Senators,</p> <p>This bill, while I understand the portrayed intentions, will be nothing more than a speed bump to someone with nefarious plans. Privately made firearms are still a thing and relatively easy to access through the means of purchasing the materials out of state without needing a background check or through the use of a 3D printer. There are entire social media groups dedicated to this and the information is readily available to anyone who chooses to look for it. The vast majority of mass shooters to which this bill targets have been shown to have manifestos and have been planning those events for a long period of time. The only way to prevent those is to ensure they have the help needed beforehand as they will find a way to do the worst they can with whatever they have available, be that a firearm, an explosive device, a knife, or an automobile.</p> <p>As much as my opinions may differ from Governor Polis on some matters, I wholeheartedly agree with his statement that we need to focus on firearms used in crime. We need to look at the penalties for firearm theft as well as when a firearm is used during or is possessed during a crime. Parental responsibility for children and teenagers found with firearms needs to be looked at as well. We can and must do better in these areas as restriction and regulation will only affect those attempting to abide by the law in the first place.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Jamie Lightner Against</p>	<p>This assault on our God given rights is unforgivable! Why is time and money being wasted on a law that is going to be overturned if it passes? It just goes to show the arrogance and ignorance of the left of this state has.</p>

<p>themselves</p>	
<p>Camron Espinoza Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado Senate,</p> <p>As a law enforcement officer in this state, I have seen firsthand how well-intentioned laws can sometimes negatively impact law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal behavior. The proposed assault weapons ban is an example of such legislation.</p> <p>The reality is that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. A ban on specific firearms will not stop individuals intent on committing violence. Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program shows that most firearm-related homicides are committed with handguns, not the so-called "assault weapons" targeted by this bill. These firearms, while occasionally used in crimes, represent a statistically insignificant portion of overall gun violence.</p> <p>Rather than restricting the rights of responsible gun owners, we should focus on addressing the root causes of violent crime. Studies consistently show that a small percentage of offenders commit a disproportionate share of violent acts. By increasing penalties for repeat offenders who commit crimes with firearms, we can hold those individuals accountable while preserving the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>In law enforcement, we often say that 5% of the population is responsible for 95% of the crime. This bill takes the opposite approach, placing unnecessary restrictions on the 95% of law-abiding citizens in an attempt to address the actions of the small minority responsible for violence. Resources spent enforcing this ban would be better used to hold repeat offenders accountable and implement proven crime prevention strategies.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. Penalizing law-abiding firearm owners, collectors, and competitive shooters will do little to reduce crime. Instead, we should prioritize targeted, effective solutions that address the real drivers of violence without infringing on constitutional rights.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from my professional experience.</p> <p>Sincerely, Camron Espinoza</p>

<p>Edgar Arellano-Bernal</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>SB25-003 is personal too me and I urge you to vote no on this bill.</p> <p>The Colorado Springs birthday mass shooting claimed 6 lives including the gunman I was raised in Colorado Springs from 4 years old I went to Fox Meadows Middle School we were in science class I made a friend who sat next to me a few years later the tragedy occurs Two parents who were victims were the parents of my friend. Both me and him are huge 2nd Amendment supporters why because we understand the need and right to protect yourself and loved ones during these horrible acts, the issue is not firearms if it were there would be mass shooting everyday there's not, all these bans do is take our right away and our protection from acts of violence it is easy to point the finger at firearms being the cause but the real issue is internal mental problems these people who commit these acts have they lack empathy and respect for human life and that needs to be addressed and not use these horrible events as an excuse for gun control what is next blade control, vehicle control you are avoiding the main issue which is why our fellow neighbors have lost their respect for human life.</p>
<p>Stephen Sandoz</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Senate Bill 25-003 is one of the most horrendously anti-second amendment bills that this state has made the misfortune of attempting to pass. This bill is touted as not being a gun ban but instead is marketed as an expansion on a magazine ban yet the language and classifications within the bill make it blatantly obvious that should the bill pass; any firearm that has a removable magazine, with few exceptions, will be made illegal and will carry along with it a class 2 misdemeanor. To so blatantly push against the second amendment of the Constitution by restricting and placing a ban upon the guns citizens may own, purchase and sell is unbelievable and the Senators and Representatives sponsoring this bill should be ashamed. Those who wish to see this bill pass must be quite unaware of the firearm industry as the firearms they desire us to own instead are so scarce that this bill will essentially leave you with no alternatives to those firearms which they wish to ban. This bill is also riddled with vague terminology and language that will undoubtedly be used and abused in the future to continue suppressing the gun rights of law-abiding Colorado citizens. The bill is also self-conflicting as seen in the terminology used to describe the "gas-operated semiautomatic handgun" that will be banned as recoil operated handguns utilize recoil which is a byproduct of the gas produced that pushes back on the cartridge. This will also undoubtedly be used as a force in the future by anti-gun and anti-second amendment advocates to continue pushing back against the rights of law-abiding citizens to further limit what one may own. The Senators and Representatives who are sponsoring this bill should take the time to question their actions and observe the oath that they uphold as their desire to push through this unconstitutional bill is completely unfounded. This bill displays that the Senators and Representatives do not respect or care for the constitutional rights of the citizens of this state and if this bill were to pass it would lead to the exodus of law-abiding citizens to other, second amendment affirming states, who do not wish to have their second amendment trampled upon and taken. This bill should be shot down immediately and observed for its incredibly radical, anti-second amendment ideas whose origin should be studied and questioned, as it dares to chip away at the very</p>

	<p>foundation of the Constitution and our rights as citizens of Colorado and the United States of America.</p>
<p>Aaron Pettner Against themselves</p>	<p>There is a reason that America is and has been the greatest country in the world. It's our people. It's the constitution. It's our freedom. And it's our liberties. And each time you try to chip away at our rights and try to alter the constitution, you're sending us just that much closer to being like the rest of the world.</p> <p>This proposed bill is only affecting good law abiding citizens. And in a dark time where policing is not proactive, but reactive, my only choice is to protect myself and my family if that awful day comes. And my weapon of choice- the tool I trust with my life and my family's lives must have the capacity to neutralize any threat(s) God forbid we ever encounter. It is a defensive tool- not offensive. Understand that. Only criminals with ill intent are on the offensive- not us. And they will not follow any law or rule set before them. They are cowards. They do not act alone. They do not play fair. We must have the ability to meet their force appropriately , and that is with semiautomatic weapons with standard capacity magazines. Owning these weapons is our right as defined in the ageless constitution and we get to exercise those rights. We are a free people and that includes you.</p> <p>Please, do not pass this proposed bill and take away our ability to be protectors. Do not give criminals the upper hand. Instead, let's work together on better ideas to go after the actual criminals- not the good law abiding citizens that only want to protect the innocent. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Damien Lord Against themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am against this bill foremost because it violates the second amendment, which is a constitutional right. It also prevents American citizens from lawfully owning safe firearms that are available in their current state. There are no gun manufacturers that make fixed magazine firearms, not to mention that fixed magazines on firearms make it impossible to clear a round in the chamber, or malfunction safely. This bill will create harm, and possibly death, due to negligent discharges. This bill also bans direct blow back firearms which classifies all modern pistols. This is truly a firearm ban on most all firearms on the market today.</p>
<p>keondre willoughby Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed bill in Colorado that seeks to ban detachable magazines, a measure I believe to be both unconstitutional and harmful to the rights of law-abiding citizens. As a resident of this state and a firm believer in the principles laid out in the United States Constitution, I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of such a ban and to vote against this legislation.</p>

	<p>The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and this right is integral to our nation's history and security. A ban on detachable magazines would, in effect, severely restrict that right by limiting the types of firearms that are available for lawful use by citizens. Detachable magazines are standard components for a wide range of firearms, including those used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. To ban these magazines would effectively render many commonly owned firearms unusable, infringing on the rights of law-abiding gun owners who rely on these weapons for personal protection, recreation, and even safety in times of crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, it targets inanimate objects—magazines—rather than the people who misuse them. Such a measure is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on crime rates and will only punish responsible gun owners. It is crucial that we focus on policies that address the actual factors contributing to violence and not merely the tools used by criminals.</p> <p>As elected officials, it is your sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. This proposed bill undermines the very rights it is your responsibility to protect. It will not make Colorado safer but will instead penalize the vast majority of gun owners who abide by the law. The Supreme Court has consistently held that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional right, and legislation that infringes on this right must be scrutinized with great care.</p> <p>I urge you to stand by the Constitution and vote *no* on this bill. The government's role is to protect the freedoms and rights of its citizens, not to infringe upon them. It is critical that we preserve the ability of individuals to lawfully own and operate firearms without unnecessary and unconstitutional restrictions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right decision in defense of our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>Sincerely,                  Keondre Willoughby                  US Army Veteran                  American citizen</p>
<p>Melissa Kastanek                  For                  herself</p>	<p>My name is Melissa Kastanek and I am a resident of Douglas County. I am a mom of a 6-year-old and a 3 year old who both attend neighborhood DCSD schools, I'm a Colorado native, a gun owner, the wife of a hunter. I heard a quote once that said, 'If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear hardship today.' I am urging support of SB25-003 because the hope that I choose to hold is that we will pass to our children something better. And I believe we start by acknowledging that, as clinical psychologist Dr. Becky reminds us, two things can be true. We can recognize</p>

	<p>that the founding fathers gave Americans the right to bear arms AND at the time, the arms they gave right to were unfathomably different than what they've evolved to. We can preserve the second amendment AND create a safer America. Gun manufactures can more responsibly manufacture and sell firearms in Colorado AND continue to turn a healthy profit. Responsible gun owners in Colorado can continue to purchase and own firearms AND we can pass legislation that strengthens the safety of our communities. I choose to believe that if we are brave enough to try, there is a middle ground to meet upon and that's where the future I want to pass on to our kids starts.</p>
<p>Alyssa Scott Against themselves</p>	<p>Filing a motion against this bill. Do not agree.</p>
<p>Jonathan Mell Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed ban on semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, some pistols with attachable magazine. While the intention might be to reduce gun violence, this approach is not only misguided but also detrimental to citizen safety:</p> <p>Misguided Focus:</p> <p>Banning specific types of firearms does not address the root causes of crime. Criminals, by definition, do not obey laws. Therefore, such bans would primarily disarm law-abiding citizens, making them more vulnerable.</p> <p>Ineffectiveness Against Crime:</p> <p>Historical evidence shows that gun control measures focusing on weapon types or magazine capacities have little to no effect on overall crime rates. Criminals adapt, using whatever weapons are available or modifying existing ones to bypass restrictions.</p> <p>Self-Defense Compromised:</p> <p>For many, especially in rural areas or high-crime neighborhoods, firearms are a vital means of self-defense. Reducing the capacity of magazines or banning certain firearms could drastically limit one's ability to protect themselves or their family in critical situations.</p> <p>Security Theatre:</p> <p>The bans and restrictions often serve more as "security theatre" - actions that give the appearance of enhancing safety while not actually contributing to real security. This can lead to a false sense of security among the public, diverting attention from more effective crime prevention strategies.</p>

	<p>Constitutional Concerns:</p> <p>In the United States, such bans infringe upon the Second Amendment rights, which are intended to safeguard personal and collective defense against tyranny. This right is not about hunting or sport but about maintaining a balance of power and ensuring personal security.</p> <p>Alternative Approaches:</p> <p>Instead of focusing on the tools of crime, we should address factors like mental health, socio-economic issues, education, and law enforcement practices. Improving mental health services, and community policing are more likely to yield positive outcomes in reducing crime.</p> <p>In conclusion, this law is not only ineffective but also counterproductive. They jeopardize the safety of citizens by disarming those who legally and responsibly own firearms for protection, while doing little to deter criminal activities. We must advocate for policies that target the real issues at play, not just the symptoms.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jonathan Mell</p>
<p>Russell Dare Against themselves</p>	<p>This proposed law would target the most common use firearms used by more than 3 million Coloradans. They intend to label millions of people "criminals" just for continuing to build the most common use firearms and transferring them to family members. It is even more radical that the failed "assault weapon" bans of the last two years.</p> <p>The supreme court decisions (Bruen, Caetano) would present the state with an unwinnable legal situation if it were to pass that would cost taxpayers millions of dollars when the state is already behind in infrastructure projects and school improvements.</p> <p>Superior, Louisville, Boulder, and Boulder County already has the court blocking their AWB because it's likely to be ruled unconstitutional.</p> <p>The last time the state pursued gun control it was met with mass non-compliance, and 80% of counties becoming Second Amendment Sanctuaries. A law of this nature is sure to push that number to 90%.</p>

	<p>A law this wide reaching (it goes way farther than even California dared) would push the already divided people of the state even farther from each other. The legislature should focus on unity and reconciliation between the people of Denver/Boulder and the rest of the state, not on hate and division.</p> <p>This bill would be horrible for the people of Colorado. As a Coloradan we urge you to vote NO and end this now.</p>
<p>Ryan Mckeever Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is a direct violation of the state and federal constitution.</p> <p>Why are we wasting state tax dollars on the least affective answer to gun crime.</p> <p>I am no longer on the side lines on this. I am sick of democrats. You have not done a single positive thing with your majority. Stop wasting everyone’s money and time so you can get political donations from Gifford and boomborg.</p>
<p>Ben Sye Against themselves</p>	<p>To whom this may concern,</p> <p>I am a US citizen and a resident of Colorado. I am against this bill/ban of lawful citizens and the lack of availability for mental health when so many of our issues with gun violence stems from mental issues that are untreated.</p> <p>Please reconsider as this will have detrimental consequences to law abiding citizens and and ultimately result in more mental health related violence that will take place with other ways to inflict damage/ harm to unsuspecting people.</p>
<p>Samantha Wild Against themselves</p>	<p>Good Afternoon State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed bill in Colorado that seeks to ban detachable magazines, a measure I believe to be both unconstitutional and harmful to the rights of law-abiding citizens. As a resident of this state and a firm believer in the principles laid out in the United States Constitution, I implore you to consider the far-reaching consequences of such a ban and to vote against this legislation.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and this right is integral to our nation's history and security. A ban on detachable magazines would, in effect, severely restrict that right by limiting the types of firearms that are available for lawful use by citizens. Detachable magazines are standard components for a wide range of firearms, including those used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. To ban these magazines would effectively render many commonly owned firearms unusable, infringing on the rights</p>

	<p>of law-abiding gun owners who rely on these weapons for personal protection, recreation, and even safety in times of crisis.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill does not address the root causes of gun violence. Instead, it targets inanimate objects—magazines—rather than the people who misuse them. Such a measure is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on crime rates and will only punish responsible gun owners. It is crucial that we focus on policies that address the actual factors contributing to violence and not merely the tools used by criminals.</p> <p>As elected officials, it is your sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. This proposed bill undermines the very rights it is your responsibility to protect. It will not make Colorado safer but will instead penalize the vast majority of gun owners who abide by the law. The Supreme Court has consistently held that the right to bear arms is a fundamental constitutional right, and legislation that infringes on this right must be scrutinized with great care.</p> <p>I urge you to stand by the Constitution and vote *no* on this bill. The government’s role is to protect the freedoms and rights of its citizens, not to infringe upon them. It is critical that we preserve the ability of individuals to lawfully own and operate firearms without unnecessary and unconstitutional restrictions.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make the right decision in defense of our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Samantha Wild Colorado Resident</p>
<p>Tyler McCune Against themselves</p>	<p>All gun laws are infringements. Repeal the NFA and GCA. Abolish the ATF. Weapons of war are why the 2A was written. The high capacity magazine ban in Colorado is unconstitutional, as are safe storage laws.</p>
<p>Frank Bartholomew Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Legislators,</p> <p>I am AMERICAN Citizen and a supporter of our constitutional rights, especially our 2nd Amendment rights. Therefore, I like millions of American Citizens, am adamantly OPPOSED to this senate bill SB25-003.</p>

	<p>Please stop taking away the rights of lawful American Citizens and lawful firearms owners. This is an unnecessary measure and will only put Law Abiding American Citizens in a position of being victims of unlawful crimes with no way to defend themselves. I am an legal American Citizen, I support our 2nd Amendment Rights, I Legally VOTE, and I OPPOSE SB25-003!</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
<p>Clifford Bott Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is unconstitutional. There is nothing about ar15 or any gas feed guns in the 2nd amendment.. when asked why Japan didn't invade the U.S. Thierry answer was „because there is a gun under every blade of grass. China would love to invade is. But one of the reasons they don't .. is because .. THERE IS A GUN UNDER EVERY BLADE OF GRASS.. I just want what any criminal might have .. So do not pass this into law ..</p>
<p>Derek Mezo Against themselves</p>	<p>It is clear that the proponents of this proposal are misguided in their belief that restrictions of any kind on the ownership of firearms will decrease violence and deaths of innocents. In fact, it does the opposite. With monotonous regularity, an armed criminal is, and would be more unhindered in their assault of an unarmed citizen, since criminals, by their nature, would not comply with your proposed bill. Your bill would increase the chances that this encounter would happen, and this is borne out in the data of numerous studies and FBI violent crime data. One need only look to Chicago, which has the most draconian anti-gun laws in the nation, to empirically see this dramatically play out with dozens of innocents killed every week.</p> <p>There is no law in existence that can ameliorate a malicious and criminal heart. The only deterrent is the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves with the firearm of their choice, unhindered by ridiculous notions of magazine size. Restrictions on magazine size and detachability do not apply to peace officers, nor should they - if called to a violent crime or home invasion, would you want the police to arrive with a revolver and one Barney bullet?</p> <p>Just as your misguided and unconstitutional attempt to keep Trump off the ballot was shot down, so, too, would this bill be ruled unconstitutional. Your attempted Californication of Colorado has made this state a laughing stock amongst patriots who live in the real world.</p>
<p>Roger Loeb Against themselves</p>	<p>If signed into law, this bill will destroy a significant number of small businesses and eventually restrict hunting to out-of-state hunters. It will also deny citizens the capability to defend themselves, relegating them to the purchase of firearms with minimal ammunition capacity. Parts of the proposed bill are unconstitutional, covering issues already subject to U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and will result in significant expenditures of Colorado tax funds to defend.</p> <p>When I lived in Boulder, my wife, children, and I were followed home by two pickup trucks whose race on the Diagonal Highway we somehow interrupted. They</p>

	<p>surrounded our house, attacked our front door with chains, tossed our patio furniture and plants in the pool, and threatened to come through our sliding glass deck door. We called 911 as soon as we got inside the house and again 10 minutes later when no police had arrived. THE POLICE NEVER ARRIVED. I met the following day with the Boulder Police Chief to find out why we got no response when we were in serious danger. We only got excuses. My wife pleaded with me to buy a gun, but I grew up in an anti-gun family and refused.</p> <p>I now live in unincorporated Douglas County. Several years ago, our doorbell woke us up around 2 a.m., and a peek through the window revealed several young men outside the front door. We called 911 and learned that the closest deputy sheriff was 15 minutes away and needed to disengage from a current assignment. Regardless, my wife announced through the front door that the sheriff's department was en route, and the group moved into the trees. By the time the deputy arrived, they were nowhere to be found. A later conversation with the Sheriff revealed that response times could be as great as 45 minutes in a county of this size. He suggested I buy a gun and learn to use it, which I have done, taking extensive classes, including several that induced very high adrenalin. I eventually obtained a concealed carry permit but have never carried a concealed weapon.</p> <p>I'm not a fan of guns, but in a state of this size and rural nature, some form of home defense seems advisable, particularly outside an urban area. Limiting that capability to firearms that do not use a detachable magazine is unnecessarily restrictive. Considering the number of firearms already in circulation, it also seems foolish.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p>
<p>Scott Hutton Against themselves</p>	<p>I do not support this Bill. As I have always believed, guns are not the problem Criminals are. Banning certain types of guns will only disarm the rule-following citizens; not the criminals. Criminals do not follow the rules. In my opinion, the bill is a misguided attempt to lower gun violence that will have the same effect as Detroit and Chicago. Both of which are gun-free zones.</p> <p>Thank you, Scott Hutton</p>
<p>Collin Wheeler Against themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon, my name is Collin Wheeler.</p> <p>I'm here today to share my concerns about SB25-003. This bill feels like it punishes responsible gun owners like me for the actions of criminals. Many Coloradans rely on these firearms for things like hunting, sport shooting, and home defense, and we follow the law when using them. This bill would unfairly restrict tools we use responsibly.</p>

	<p>I'm also concerned about the vague language in this bill. For example, the way "rapid-fire devices" are defined could easily lead to confusion and unintentionally affect people who aren't doing anything wrong. That kind of uncertainty isn't helpful for law enforcement or gun owners.</p> <p>I believe we should focus on solutions that really address violence—like improving mental health resources and enforcing the laws we already have. Those would be more effective without putting unnecessary restrictions on responsible citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Trevor Vaughn Against themselves</p>	<p>I find this bill to be an overreach of government officials. This violates the 2nd amendment of the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. This bill aims to ban whole categories of weapons that are used for everyday things such as sports and hunting. This ban only aims to prevent law abiding citizens from purchasing these weapons there is no protocol to prevent criminals from acquiring these types of weapons illegally as they always have done. This could prevent an at risk law abiding citizen from being able to acquire a firearm that could allow them to protect themselves from criminals. All this bill accomplishes is getting one step closer to banning all firearms which is a violation of our second amendment stating "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."</p>
<p>Johnny McElley Against themselves</p>	<p>This is an absolute disgrace and abuse from the left radicals!</p> <p>It's goes against our god given rights to bear arms against just this type of thought process!</p>
<p>Paden Bobitsky Against themselves</p>	<p>This is a violation of my rights as United States citizen. And violation of the Constitution's second amendment. Any who vote in favor are violating their promise to protect and uphold the Constitution.</p>
<p>Jeffrey Schottler Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee:</p> <p>I am writing to strongly oppose SB25-003, a deeply flawed piece of legislation that infringes on constitutional rights, harms vulnerable populations, and threatens Colorado's economy without addressing the root causes of violence. This bill's overreach risks criminalizing law-abiding citizens while failing to enhance public safety.</p>

	<p>Constitutional Violations</p> <p>SB25-003 violates the Second Amendment, as affirmed by Supreme Court rulings such as District of Columbia v. Heller and New York State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association v. Bruen. These decisions confirm that firearms "in common use" for lawful purposes are protected. The semi-automatic firearms targeted by this bill are among the most commonly owned tools for self-defense, hunting, and recreation. Additionally, the bill violates the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause by rendering lawfully owned property unusable without compensation and creates unequal treatment under the Fourteenth Amendment by grandfathering current owners while prohibiting future acquisitions.</p> <p>Ineffectiveness of the Bill</p> <p>FBI statistics show that rifles and shotguns account for only 3.8% of murders in Colorado. Handguns are far more commonly used in violent crimes. Banning widely owned firearms does little to deter criminal behavior, as criminals often obtain firearms illegally, while penalizing responsible gun owners.</p> <p>Disproportionate Impact</p> <p>SB25-003 disproportionately affects the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Semi-automatic firearms with low recoil and ergonomic designs are essential for these populations, enabling them to defend themselves effectively. For those with limited strength or mobility, alternatives such as bolt-action or pump-action firearms are impractical and less effective for self-defense.</p> <p>Economic Harm</p> <p>Colorado's firearms industry supports small businesses, creates jobs, and contributes millions in tax revenue. SB25-003 would devastate this ecosystem, forcing closures and layoffs while reducing funds for essential public services. This bill undermines a vital part of Colorado's economy and culture.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>SB25-003 fails to address the root causes of violence while infringing on constitutional rights, harming vulnerable populations, and threatening Colorado's economy. Please vote no on this bill.</p>
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	<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jeff Schottler</p>
<p>Jonathan Fragoso</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Despite its obviously anti-constitutional nature, both US and Colorado's, this bill attempts once again to place undue burden primarily on law abiding citizens. No part of this bill does anything, nor will do anything, to address any part of the issue of violent attacks perpetrated by heinous, unlawful actors. This seems to be nothing more than another attempt at petty, self-important, grandstanding on the part of ideologues. Ideologues who seem have little idea of how the majority of Colorado (by geographical area) live their lives, and wish to impose their narrow, draconic, views of firearms onto the entire populace. No legitimate scientific research suggests that limiting magazine capacity will reduce the number of attacks, nor reduce the number of casualties, specifically because the vast majority of attacks are perpetrated by handguns. Perhaps the Colorado democrats should be bold and propose what it is they truly seek; a ban on all guns except those they deem that state actors should have access to. Also, the language found in this bill stating that the Attorney General may redefine language of this bill "unilaterally" is preposterous and antithetical to any developed sense of justice. You might as well right this: "This bill shall not ban guns, but gives the Attorney General unilateral powers to change any language in this bill." Then after it passes, the AG can just take out the "not." Entirely ridiculous. If nothing else, this type of language in the bill that gives anyone any ability whatsoever to change the interpretation of the bill after it has been passed is reason enough to send this bill to where it belongs; the trash heap.</p>
<p>James McCurdy</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear senators, legislature and all of our civic minded citizens.</p> <p>Please vote against any firearm legislation regarding the limiting of the citizens right to our second amendment. The idea of an armed population is a large deterrent to the unchecked growth of the power of state to dictate life quality by an over cumbersome government.</p> <p>The violence in our world is Not a firearm problem. Simply put it in a love problem. Too often the tool is blamed rather than the perpetrator of the act of violence. More laws are not the solution. Only additional problems. The increase in punishment for possessing a tool is tantamount to keeping slavery by removing knowledge. Often there are laws which are unjust. Such as dred scott. Please do not sacrifice my rights or your grandchildren's future by passing this bill. I have no hope of matching the numbers of our democracy simply put I am a single man. I have no children to reinforce my voting power. I hope for the idea of a democratic Republic whereby even the tin foil hat gets the same protection as the ball cap populous.</p> <p>Please do not allow extra laws to attempt restrictions for law abiding citizens with regards to guns, ammunition, manufactured or private made arms. The idea that criminalizing behavior to punish the individual will prevent violence is mismatched to ideas of our founding fathers.</p>
<p>Andrew Bright</p> <p>Against</p>	<p>Hello,</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>My name is Andrew and this is the first time that I have ever done anything like this, please forgive me if it;s formmated oddly. There are several reasons that this bill would ultimately cause harm to the people of Colorado and even the United States as a whole. The most important point is that this will not solve the problem that is intended to. From my understanding, the law aims to make this state safer by outright banning gas operated firearms with standard capacity magazines with the goal of preventing loss of life in the event of a mass casualty event. The idea is that the bad won't be able to get their hands on these gas operated guns and if they do the magazine will greatly limit the damage potential. I can appreciate the sentiment however the way that this bill attempted to address it is ultimately going to hurt even more people. These bad guys are just that, criminals, and while me and so many other law abiding citizens care about the law ( hence my writing) we tend to try and keep the law to the best of our abilities. The bad guy however doesn't care. This bad guy who intends to go into an area of high population density and inflict as much harm as possible isn't going to care that he can't have a magazine or that holds more than 15 rounds because he is a bad guy. I've been think about this alot and what it most reminds me of is the war on drugs campaign. Criminalizing all drug use all it did was give power to the bad guys and create victims from the law abiding citizens. It didn't stop drug use in fact, in some studies it increased it slightly. The reason being is that the war on drugs was such a failure that the human element was completely ignored. The unfortunate fact of the matter is that people will always do drugs and seek out escapism regardless of legal status. There will be people who are addicted or want to escape from a life they are not happy with. In other words the demand will always be there and there will also always be a supply since there's also a demand. It might become more expensive which may reduce demand but it's impossible to eliminate demand completely. The same is true with the issue trying to be addressed, mass shootings are not a result of gun laws being too lackadaisical it's a result of severe mental illness and extreme dissatisfaction with the way life is going. And just like with drugs there will always be someone who is going to do whatever it takes to hurt people. AS depressing as this might be, by addressing the people pulling the trigger on innocents instead of the hunks of metal they use there's a better chance of actually addressing the underlying problem.</p> <p>I hope someone takes the time to read this and take it to heart, this means alot to me and i know how much it means to a lot of other people. This legislation won't make it harder on criminals and bad people because they don't care about the law. But to your every day person like me and like so many others it's devastating. I hope that you all do what is right and instead of asking what you can do about the gun problem look deeper at the problem and ask " why are people hurting people"</p>
<p>Richard Thomas Against themselves</p>	<p>As a retired vet and a proud shooter of firearms all my life, I am in total opposition of this asinine proposal.</p>

<p>Terry Browning Against themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Below is my written testimony opposing the entirety of SB25-003.</p> <p>During the House Judiciary Committee Hearings on July 20, 2022 Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY) admitted that H.R. 1808 is meant to ban firearms in common use, even though this directly violates the Supreme Court's ruling (New York State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association Inc. V Bruen).</p> <p>When a senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledges the above the argument should cease immediately in reference to banning all common use firearms.</p> <p>The Bill intends to ban all semi-automatic firearms. This is repugnant not only to the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution it is repugnant to Colorado's own Constitution Article II. Section 13) regarding the right to bear arms.</p> <p>My statement will be brief: This bill bans all semi-automatic firearms capable of accepting detachable magazines, a means of operation that has existed for over 100 years. Bills like this only continue to harass law-abiding gun owners and erode Second Amendment rights while doing nothing to improve public safety. The General Assembly should instead seek ways to hold violent criminals accountable for their actions and get them off the streets.</p> <p>No one testifying against this Bill is responsible for the atrocity carried out by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold at Columbine High School, yet Tom Sullivan has attempted to punish law abiding Coloradoans since taking office for the simple "sin" of being firearm owners. No gun owner wants atrocities like that to happen, but we get villainized for the actions of sick individuals.</p> <p>Each of you has taken an oath to uphold and defend the Constitutions of the United States and Colorado. This pertains to the entirety of each not just the parts you like. It's time to focus on the causes of the issues rather than punishing law abiding citizens of this State and Country.</p> <p>Terry E. Browning Westminster, CO</p>
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<p>Brian Christie</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members:</p> <p>I'm sure by now you have received numerous opinions about SB25-003. To keep with that, I would like to add another STRONG opposition to this bill.</p> <p>This bill clearly infringes upon the US Constitution's second amendment. This bill would demolish Colorado's small business gun stores by outlawing nearly all of the popular firearm styles. It is a transparent attempt at putting these small businesses out of business and/or bankrupting opposing organizations with court battles. Those same court battles will take valuable resources away from Coloradans as well by requiring the state to defend a clearly blatant attempt at abolishing the second amendment.</p> <p>Additionally, the wording of this bill could be argued to include all semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines. Technically, all firearms are "gas operated" because that is how the cartridge pushes the bullet out. Even when you consider a pistol that uses blowback, that blowback is caused by the gas expansion of firing the cartridge. The wording does not say "Direct Gas Impingement" or similar. I'm no expert and do not know all the other options for what I hope you mean by "gas operated", but I do know that "gas operated" is too generic and could be argued as all firearms.</p> <p>Another by-product of this bill would be to nullify my investment by prohibiting me from selling any of the affected guns I already own. That is pretty much equivalent to illegal seizure of my assets without due compensation.</p> <p>I implore you to stand up for the US Constitution which you swore to uphold and kill this blatantly overreaching bill in committee. Any bill that needs to exclude Federal, State or Local government agencies is blatantly overreaching.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brian Christie</p> <p>A Colorado resident who is tiring of this assault on our constitutionally protected rights.</p>
<p>Geoffrey Goodman</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Some advocates of this bill mistakenly claim that the rights of shooters are not infringed, because there are a variety of firearms that can be used for recreational purposes.</p> <p>For example, they argue, hunters can use over and under twin barreled shotguns or single-shot rifles. Target shooters can use air guns or black powder firearms.</p>

	<p>This misses the basic point of the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution. This amendment protects the right of the individual to own and use effective modern firearms for the purpose of protecting him or herself from armed adversaries. In 21st century America, this means magazine-fed, semi-automatic, centerfire firearms.</p>
<p>Jo Lemma Against themselves</p>	<p>SB25-003 purports to be a ban on assault weapons. The bill's attempt to define an assault weapon is so loose and wide ranging that it includes the vast majority of firearms used by citizens to defend themselves as well as those used for training those same citizens. I am a staunch supporter of our law enforcement agencies, but the sad reality is that an attacker will undoubtedly complete his assault long before a law enforcer is able to arrive. This bill, if passed, leaves the victim literally defenseless. If crime is so rampant (and I don't disagree that it is) it makes no sense to deny the law abiding citizenry the chance to protect their lives. This bill does nothing to deter those who would assault or worse.</p>
<p>Michael Jacoby Against themselves</p>	<p>As a 30 year resident of Colorado. In the last 10 years I have witnessed the adoption of a Zero Common Sense approach to legislating our laws. This proposed legislation falls within what I consider to be a Zero Common Sense piece of legislation. I will be watching the proceedings and I'm personally sharing information to my friends and contacts who I know share my felling's. Enough is enough. Please hear our voice. This State can no longer be legislated by Denver and Colorado Springs alone. We are watching and we do vote!</p>
<p>Michael Jacoby Against themselves</p>	<p>As a 30 year resident of Colorado. In the last 10 years I have witnessed the adoption of a Zero Common Sense approach to legislating our laws. This proposed legislation falls within what I consider to be a Zero Common Sense piece of legislation. I will be watching the proceedings and I'm personally sharing information to my friends and contacts who I know share my felling's. Enough is enough. Please hear our voice. This State can no longer be legislated by Denver and Colorado Springs alone. We are watching and we do vote!</p>
<p>Ryan Butler Against themselves</p>	<p>This Bill removes the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves from violent threats and acts. The Bill will only add confusion and decrease safety as the intended laws do not consider the reality of firearms construction and operation.</p> <p>Existing gun laws in Colorado have yet to prove any deterrence or quantifiably show an effective decrease the number of gun deaths in this state.</p> <p>Any Legislators supporting this Bill should be held accountable as it violates Title 18, Section 242 "Conspiracy Against Rights" in the State Constitution. This bill infringes on our inalienable rights as protected by the Constitution of the United States.</p> <p>The 2nd amendment, is a fundamental civil right cemented by our Founding Fathers. Those that continue to ignore the will of the people they govern, will eventually find themselves removed from office.</p>

<p>Roger Yacobucci</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”</p> <p>No where in the Second Amendment does it say that any government entity has the right to define what Arms are. In fact, 2008 Supreme Court ruling (District of Columbia v. Heller) invalidated a federal law that forbade nearly all civilians from possessing handguns. Federal law trumps state law so the State of Colorado has no right to forbade ordinary citizens from owning any type of handgun. And I am sure that this right extends to long guns as well.</p> <p>So quit taking the gun rights away from citizens.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Roger Yacobucci</p>
<p>Antonio Ferradino</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I, as a citizen of the State of Colorado, demand this bill be dismissed. This bill is a direct infringement on citizens Constitutional Second Amendment right. Furthermore this bill prevents law abiding citizens from obtaining tools to defend their lives, families lives, and their property. This bill will do nothing to prevent criminals from accessing firearms as we already have numerous state and federal laws that prevent them from doing so through legal means. This bill is unconstitutional, unethical, and unfair.</p>
<p>Chris Comish</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senate State Veterans &amp; Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I am a Military Veteran who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.</p> <p>Many of these firearms this bill wants to ban I used to defend myself and the country from harm in 2003.</p> <p>These firearms are common in homes across Colorado because they are reliable forms of self-defense against harm from criminals. In extreme situations, these firearms are also reliable for homeland defense from military invasions from military forces such as Russia and China, who have been increasing their military forces exponentially and targeting the US over the past 20 years. As much as I would love to optimistically believe, the National Guard is not a reliable form of defense for all of the citizens of Colorado. We all saw in the George Floyd riots of 2020 and the Attack on the Capitol in 2021 how quickly law and order can break down. We all need to have our own forms of defense to protect against criminals and tyranny.</p>

	<p>The purpose of the 2nd amendment is to defend the country. This includes our own families in our homes. These firearms constitute reliable home self-defense against armed attackers. This is why the military and police use them in defense.</p> <p>Banning these firearms from law abiding citizens goes against the vows I took in defending the country against all threats foreign and domestic when I served.</p> <p>In Chicago, New York, and many major cities with rampant gang violence, firearms are banned, and yet the gangs still find a way to get guns, whether from cartels or from other underground networks. Gun bans do not work, as history continues to show, and only hurt law abiding citizens trying to defend their families. The moment guns are banned from law abiding citizens, these criminals will have free reign to attack undefended homes and families. Families will be left with baseball bats and pepper spray to defend themselves, while gangs and cartels with guns can easily break into homes and harm our families.</p> <p>This bill is a clear violation of my 2nd amendment constitutional rights as well as the 2nd amendment rights of all people in Colorado.</p> <p>As a military veteran who has sworn to defend this country from threats, I oppose this gun bill. This bill is no different than the actions the Nazis took to disarm the Jews prior to them being put in the concentration camps prior to World War 2. History does not need to repeat itself. I oppose this unconstitutional gun bill which violates my second amendment rights to defend myself and my family from harm.</p> <p>Regards, Chris Comish Woodland Park, CO 80863</p>
<p>Camron Espinoza Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado Senate,</p> <p>As a law enforcement officer in this state, I have seen firsthand how well-intentioned laws can sometimes negatively impact law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal behavior. The proposed assault weapons ban is an example of such legislation.</p> <p>The reality is that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. A ban on specific firearms will not stop individuals intent on committing violence. Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program shows that most firearm-related homicides are committed with handguns, not the so-called "assault weapons" targeted by this bill. These firearms, while occasionally used in crimes, represent a statistically insignificant portion of overall gun violence.</p>

	<p>Rather than restricting the rights of responsible gun owners, we should focus on addressing the root causes of violent crime. Studies consistently show that a small percentage of offenders commit a disproportionate share of violent acts. By increasing penalties for repeat offenders who commit crimes with firearms, we can hold those individuals accountable while preserving the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>In law enforcement, we often say that 5% of the population is responsible for 95% of the crime. This bill takes the opposite approach, placing unnecessary restrictions on the 95% of law-abiding citizens in an attempt to address the actions of the small minority responsible for violence. Resources spent enforcing this ban would be better used to hold repeat offenders accountable and implement proven crime prevention strategies.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. Penalizing law-abiding firearm owners, collectors, and competitive shooters will do little to reduce crime. Instead, we should prioritize targeted, effective solutions that address the real drivers of violence without infringing on constitutional rights.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from my professional experience.</p> <p>Sincerely, Camron Espinoza</p>
<p>Camron Espinoza Against himself</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado Senate,</p> <p>As a law enforcement officer in this state, I have seen firsthand how well-intentioned laws can sometimes negatively impact law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal behavior. The proposed assault weapons ban is an example of such legislation.</p> <p>The reality is that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. A ban on specific firearms will not stop individuals intent on committing violence. Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program shows that most firearm-related homicides are committed with handguns, not the so-called "assault weapons" targeted by this bill. These firearms, while occasionally used in crimes, represent a statistically insignificant portion of overall gun violence.</p> <p>Rather than restricting the rights of responsible gun owners, we should focus on addressing the root causes of violent crime. Studies consistently show that a small</p>

	<p>percentage of offenders commit a disproportionate share of violent acts. By increasing penalties for repeat offenders who commit crimes with firearms, we can hold those individuals accountable while preserving the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>In law enforcement, we often say that 5% of the population is responsible for 95% of the crime. This bill takes the opposite approach, placing unnecessary restrictions on the 95% of law-abiding citizens in an attempt to address the actions of the small minority responsible for violence. Resources spent enforcing this ban would be better used to hold repeat offenders accountable and implement proven crime prevention strategies.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. Penalizing law-abiding firearm owners, collectors, and competitive shooters will do little to reduce crime. Instead, we should prioritize targeted, effective solutions that address the real drivers of violence without infringing on constitutional rights.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from my professional experience.</p> <p>Sincerely, Camron Espinoza</p>
<p>Michael Pettigrew Against himself</p>	<p>The proposed law under Senate Bill 25-003, the all-encompassing ban on semi-automatic firearms, directly contradicts the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and is flagrantly illegitimate.</p> <p>The sponsors clearly do not care about such matters and will not be convinced otherwise. We will not dwell on that problem in this writing.</p> <p>A system which protects and rewards criminals while persecuting law-abiding citizens is intolerable. It must be corrected. The proposed law moves in the wrong direction. It punishes law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to protect them from criminal predators.</p> <p>There is absolutely no evidence that the proposed law would have any beneficial effect on public safety. "Gun Control" laws are all about punishing law-abiding citizens who own firearms. They allow petty tyrants to harass "those icky gun people", a remark which I have heard from more than one official or citizen in past times. Gun Control laws are fundamentally both illegitimate and ineffective for their claimed purposes.</p>

	<p>Twenty-six States have enacted "Constitutional Carry" or "Shall Issue" laws which freed their citizens from previous restrictions on carrying firearms. Every one of those States experienced an immediate and sustained drop in violent crimes such as rape, robbery, aggravated assault and murder. That is powerful evidence that reducing the scope of "Gun Control" laws is the most effective means to improve public safety. Well, that and actually keeping violent criminals in jail for longer durations.</p> <p>I urge you to reject Senate Bill 25-003 in its' entirety.</p>
<p>Jennifer Qualteri Against themselves</p>	<p>Colorado had the 8th highest violent crime rate in the nation according to the Common Sense Institute's most recent report. This trend has been getting worse since 2019. As Coloradans face an intense and government-inflicted crime wave, we have not only seen inaction from current leaders but moves to prevent "we the people" from protecting ourselves.</p> <p>Coloradans are 1,425,000 times more likely to be victims of a violent crime than winning the jackpot in the lottery.</p> <p>While Colorado is seeing such high rates of violent crimes (rape, aggravated assault, robbery, and murder), the government should not be leaving citizens unable to protect themselves adequately. They should be focused on addressing the high crime rates, instead of targeting responsible gun owners.</p> <p>This Bill is leaving Coloradans defenseless. SB25-003, the semi-automatic firearm ban, would prohibit the sale and transfer of all semi-automatic rifles recommended for home defense, including the highest-rated and most popular home defense rifles for women.</p>
<p>Sandra Knowles Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose this bill because it is an infringement on our 2nd amendment right to bear arms. Furthermore, it does nothing to protect or benefit the citizens of Colorado. These restrictions will only affect law-abiding citizens, as criminals do not follow laws.</p>
<p>Conor Jones Against themselves</p>	<p>The bill is meant as a simple solution to resolve the mental health crisis in . We've already implemented one major step by creating additional taxes on gun and ammo purchases. The next step is to require yearly training for people with firearms and a safe haven for people to return their firearms for holding while going through</p>

	<p>difficult times. In addition, this bill drastically impact Colorado’s economy because you reduce the amount of money you could bring in by the taxes of selling guns and ammo. Also, you will create a black market sellers for illegal firearms, also people buying them through family via gift transfers from other states, so you can’t monitor guns coming in and out of the state of Colorado. Least right now you can monitor gun sales and where criminals use sold guns you can fine or withdraw FFLs of dealers selling straw purchased firearms.</p>
<p>Karen Chapman For themselves</p>	<p>SB-003 is critical to enforcement of the existing high capacity magazine restrictions under Colorado law. Currently, it is legal in Colorado to buy a firearm that accepts detachable high capacity magazines. Such magazines can be purchased legally in surrounding states. This bill is narrowly tailored to prohibit firearms that are capable of accepting such magazines; the bill does not restrict a wide range of firearms that are not able to accept such magazines.</p> <p>The King Soopers massacre shooter had ten high capacity magazines and guns compatible with them that he had legally purchased. This bill will eliminate that risk. Such guns will not be legally available.</p> <p>As the mother of a Colorado law enforcement officer who knew the officer killed in the massacre, I have insight into the trauma suffered by the law enforcement community. If you care about our law enforcement officers, this bill is a big step toward ensuring that they are not outgunned. Please vote yes on SB-003.</p>
<p>Robert Arnquist Against themselves</p>	<p>Inanimate objects are simple tools wielded by flawed humans; just as the pen and keyboard that wrote this flawed proposal</p>
<p>Theodore Cahoon Against themselves</p>	<p>Any ban on firearms is unconstitutional on its face under Bruen. Whoever wrote the bill, or votes for it is violating their Oath of Office to protect the Constitution and should be removed from office.</p>
<p>Aaron Vammer Against themselves</p>	<p>As a resident of rural Colorado and a licensed concealed carrier, I stand before you deeply troubled by Senate Bill 25-003. This legislation threatens not just my constitutional rights but the very safety of my family.</p> <p>In rural areas like mine, the reality is stark: if an emergency strikes, law enforcement can take several critical minutes to arrive. This isn't about owning firearms for sport or hobby; it's about the fundamental right to defend my family when seconds count.</p>

	<p>Firearm safety is of utmost importance to me. I've trained, I've educated myself, and I secure my firearms responsibly. But this bill would strip away my ability to protect my loved ones, infringing upon a right upheld by the Supreme Court in <i>Heller</i> and <i>Bruen</i>.</p> <p>This bill does nothing to enhance public safety; it only penalizes law-abiding citizens like myself. It misses the mark completely on addressing the real issues of crime, instead focusing on restricting those who live by the law and prioritize safety.</p> <p>The economic ramifications for rural Colorado could be severe, with local businesses facing closure and the loss of jobs. But more than that, it's about the personal security of those of us living far from immediate help.</p> <p>This legislation feels like an overreach, ignoring the needs and realities of rural communities. It's disheartening to see such a focus on controlling law-abiding citizens rather than tackling the root causes of violence or improving response times.</p> <p>And let's not forget the legal battles that would ensue if this bill passes, leading to years of uncertainty and wasted resources, all while my family's safety hangs in the balance.</p> <p>I'm concerned, not just for myself but for all rural Coloradans. We cannot afford to have our family's safety impeded by this reckless bill. We need policies that respect our rights and understand our unique challenges. This bill does neither. It's time to reconsider this approach and work towards solutions that truly enhance safety without infringing upon the rights of those who need them the most.</p>
<p>Gabrial Ruell Against themselves</p>	<p>As a Colorado resident and a freedom absolutist I do now want to see my representatives and other elected officials supporting a bill that will reduce the freedoms of their constituents.</p> <p>I feel these tools are no more harmful than having an automatic transmission in a vehicle or even access to a multi-ton device capable of traveling at great speeds and producing tremendous forces.</p> <p>Not to say I think cars are a problem, I don't feel either should be.</p> <p>This is not the way to ensure JOY or freedom in our communities.</p>
<p>Alan Wild Against themselves</p>	<p>This proposed bill to make illegal to regulate the manufacture, distribute, transfer, sale, or purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms of semi-auto firearms is another example of legislative overreach. The bill will destroy the constitutional right of Colorado citizens to acquire the most common firearms. The bill is so over the top that achieving compliance will be impossible. They have done this in Canada with similar draconian laws, only to see very little compliance.</p> <p>If passed, the law will almost certainly be thrown out by the courts.</p>

	<p>Please spend the legislature’s time on something helpful and realistic.</p>
<p>Dusk Edwards Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to Colorado State Bill 25-003. As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill is both unconstitutional and detrimental to citizen’s rights to self-protection. This bill will do nothing to abate criminal activity committed with a firearm and will only put onerous obstacles in place for law-abiding citizens seeking to protect themselves and exercise their 2nd amendment protected rights.</p> <p>Far from being the purported extension of the (unconstitutional) magazine ban, this bill would ban most commonly owned firearms used by citizens for self-defense. The assurance that this is not a gun ban, is a lie. No such guns exist with fixed (pinned) magazines and current guns cannot easily be made to comply.</p> <p>Specifically, I am concerned about the sloppy wording regarding gas operated firearms in this bill. All firearms function on some method of using the resultant gases created to operate the slide mechanism. Also, there are grave safety issues regarding fixed magazine handguns; as these cannot be easily cleared of ammunition by owners (or law enforcement) to thereby render them safe. Furthermore, allowing the attorney general the ability to change the definitions of guns covered by the this bill screams of illegal government overreach.</p> <p>I ask that you take into account the concerns of those who would be adversely affected by this bill, and reconsider your support for it. It is essential that the policies we enact at the state level work toward first: representing the will of your whole constituency – we the people – not some out of state elite faction, and second, strengthening our communities, not harming them. I would appreciate it if you could take the time to carefully review the implications of this bill and, if possible, withdraw your support.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope you will act in the best interest of all Coloradans.</p>
<p>Josue Carames Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senator/Representative,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, titled “Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices,” introduced on January 8, 2025. This bill proposes prohibiting the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazines.</li> <li>• Gas-operated semiautomatic handguns with detachable magazines.</li> </ul>

	<p>While I understand the intent to enhance public safety, I believe SB25-003 is overly broad and could inadvertently criminalize now or in the future law-abiding citizens who utilize these firearms for legitimate purposes such as hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense. Notably, this bill would ban a wide range of commonly used firearms, surpassing the restrictions seen in other states.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill’s classification of “rapid-fire devices” as dangerous weapons lacks precise definitions, potentially encompassing devices that are currently legal and safely used by responsible gun owners. This ambiguity could lead to legal challenges and unintended consequences.</p> <p>I urge you to consider alternative measures that focus on addressing the root causes of gun violence without infringing upon the constitutional rights of responsible firearm owners. Effective strategies could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing mental health services to identify and support individuals at risk.</li> <li>• Implementing community-based programs aimed at violence prevention.</li> </ul> <p>By focusing on these areas, we can work towards reducing gun violence while respecting the rights of Colorado’s citizens and, most importantly, the constitutional rights of the citizens of the United States of America.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical issue.</p>
<p>Linda Sorauf For themselves</p>	<p>I am a Colorado voter who is in favor of this bill. Mass shootings have become part of our regular news and are alarming. Whatever Colorado can do to minimize the damage is needed. The focus of this bill is enforcing Colorado’s 2013 high capacity magazine ban. The bill prohibits knowingly manufacturing, distributing, transferring, selling, or purchasing a specified firearm that accepts detachable magazines; except that a person may transfer a specified semiautomatic firearm to an heir, an individual residing in another state, or a federally licensed firearm dealer. Gun dealers may decry this bill as challenging for them, but I believe they are resilient and resourceful and can find ways to comply with this gun safety law and help with the balance between responsible gun ownership and protecting people from the horrors of mass shootings.</p>
<p>Richard Roland Against themselves</p>	<p>This law, if passed, will be overturned. See District of Columbia v. Heller. Passing will cost Colorado taxpayers millions and will ultimately fail. Additionally, this law significantly limits the ability for law abiding citizens to defend themselves.</p>
<p>Mark Kaiser</p>	<p>No on Sb25–003</p>

<p>Against themselves</p>	<p>The Second Amendment was never intended to guarantee one's safety. Its focus was to guarantee your ability to fight back.</p> <p>However, in Colorado, the right to defend oneself is under attack by those who want to put severe limitations on any weapon you might obtain, own, or keep to defend yourself and yours</p> <p>What should be of ultimate concern and importance is that the complete ignorance of a five to seven-minute response time by law enforcement will be an eternity when the lunatic looking for his 15 minutes of fame is using a gun, knife, or other weapon gun-free zone simply because they know there will be no armed resistance to their desire for mayhem.</p> <p>Criminals don't fear laws, they ignore signs. But they do fear armed victims and severe punishment for their quests for fame.</p> <p>Yet our electeds keep up their agenda to further water down criminal penalties while additionally attempting to completely take any form of self-defense from law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>The question remains. Colorado still ranks number one in crime but little is being done to control crime. When does it end? Does it end with a completely fearful populace that cannot defend itself?</p> <p>MARK KAISER 7035 ZENOBIA ST WESTMINSTER, CO 80030 3035980630 REGISTERED VOLUNTEER LOBBYIST</p>
<p>steven atkinson Against themselves</p>	<p>Honorable Committee Members,</p> <p>I oppose Senate Bill 25-003, which bans "specified semiautomatic firearms" and "rapid-fire devices," citing several critical issues:</p> <p>Constitutional Rights: This bill contravenes the Second Amendment by criminalizing common firearms used for lawful activities. The Supreme Court supports the right to own such arms for self-defense, sport, and hunting.</p>

	<p>Economic Impact: This law threatens small businesses like gun shops and manufacturers, potentially leading to job losses and affecting related sectors like tourism and outdoor sports, which are vital to Colorado's economy.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage: Hunting and shooting are part of Colorado's culture and contribute to conservation. Banning these activities could disconnect future generations from these traditions.</p> <p>Public Safety: There's no definitive proof that banning these firearms reduces crime. Laws should focus on mental health, responsible ownership, and law enforcement rather than blanket bans that criminals ignore.</p> <p>Legal &amp; Practical Concerns: Enforcement would be costly and complex, likely increasing illegal firearm trade. Legal challenges would arise due to potential conflicts with federal law and constitutional rights.</p> <p>In summary, SB25-003 not only infringes on our constitutional freedoms but also endangers our economy and cultural practices. I urge you to reject this bill in favor of solutions that balance safety with the rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you, Steve Atkinson 80124</p>
<p>Michael Hart Against themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly against this invasive and expansion classification of prohibition. This is government overreach which goes against the second amendment. Do not let Colorado become the next commifornia.</p>
<p>Joseph Brady Against themselves</p>	<p>I appreciate attempts to prevent violent crimes, including ones involving firearms. But banning the legal sale of the most commonly sold (in my estimation) firearm for private home self defense is an outrageous overreach, and would seem to exclusively target law abiding citizens and tax paying firearms dealers.</p> <p>The Colorado revised statues already contains many provisions to criminalize various activities or actions involving firearms. The mere act of legally selling or transferring ownership of firearm types that have been privately owned for decades, should in no reasonable mind, be considered a unlawful act.</p> <p>The Colorado constitution establishes the right to keep and bear arms in defense of home, person, and property, and to aid of the civil power when thereto legally</p>

	<p>summoned. To suggest that one cannot engage in the sale or transfer of a firearm to facilitate this constitutionally protected right does not make sense.</p>
<p>Jeremiah Reidy Against themselves</p>	<p>Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 is following pattern of legislation from our state legislative body that ignores legal precedent and constitutional principles. Similar bills have already been struck down in other circuits, this is obviously about political theater and persecution than public safety. Most concerning is the bill's creation of a two-tiered society, where law enforcement - who are civilians operating under civilian authority - are granted privileges denied to other citizens. If these firearms are appropriate for law enforcement to purchase in a self defense capacity then why would that not extend the right to the average law abiding citizen? This inconsistency exposes the bill for what it is: politically motivated legislation that wastes taxpayer resources while undermining constitutional rights and equal protection under the law.</p>
<p>Corinne Carpenter For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>My name is Corinne Carpenter. I am a born and raised Coloradoan. I grew up in Jefferson County and attended Columbine High School. I am now a mother of two little girls who attend Jeffco schools.</p> <p>At the time the Columbine shooting happened, I was in grief and understood the need to focus on healing; however, after watching countless shootings in my own state and around the country, I realize I did very little to protect other kids, teachers, schools, families and communities. I have felt and I understand all too well the destruction and upheaval that mass shooting do to a community for a lifetime. I should have asked my legislators for stronger gun violence prevention policies in 1997.</p> <p>This is why I am asking you to vote FOR SB25. Colorado knows all too well the impact of mass shootings. Columbine was the first. Aurora broke our hearts. My family lived in Boulder when the King Soopers shooting occurred. Rather than lead the country in these shootings, we should be leading the country in preventing these types of mass killings. In the 2021 Boulder shooting at King Soopers, the shooter legally purchased a Ruger AR-556 semiautomatic pistol which he then paired with multiple high-capacity magazines, which are illegal to possess under current Colorado law, and murdered ten people.</p> <p>High-capacity magazines make shootings more lethal, increasing the amount of ammunition that can be fired before a shooter needs to pause to reload. While Colorado enacted a ban on high capacity magazines in 2013, the existing law makes it dangerously easy for mass shooters and criminals to evade, as they can easily cross state lines to legally buy magazines in neighboring states and attach them to high-powered, military style firearms—which are legal to sell in Colorado. Since Colorado does not prohibit any type of semi-automatic military style weapon, a potential mass</p>

	<p>shooter or criminal can legally purchase an exceptionally deadly firearm and obtain a prohibited magazine with relative ease.</p> <p>In order to fully implement and enforce Colorado’s existing high-capacity magazine prohibition and to end the profit motivation for the gun industry to keep selling these deadly firearms, Colorado should pass SB 003, a bill prohibiting the purchase and sale of all rapid fire conversion devices and prohibiting the manufacture and sale of the most dangerous weapons — specified semi-automatic, military-style firearms that can accept high-capacity magazines.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and I hope you are thoughtful as you review SB003 and do your utmost to protect the citizens of Colorado.</p> <p>Sincerely, Corinne Carpenter</p>
<p>Kelly Daniels Against themselves</p>	<p>Wrong type of legislation. Still not addressing root cause. While millions of Coloradans own this type of sport weapon, special interest groups refuse to do their diligence in lobbying for new, ineffective legislation. Please focus on root causes. Individuals and some organized crime and government agencies are improperly and illegally using automatic weapons. Please focus on preventing and severely punishing (as deterrent) those who are committing crimes. As I have written to this Senate, the House and our Federal Senate and House representatives in the past three years, myself and more than 1 million Coloradans are not the problem. The issues is poor opportunities often times for criminals, bad decisions and defective personalities combined with lax enforcement of existing punishments and weak deterrent punishment. As an example, reduced or lenient sentencing does not allow for effective rehabilitation before returning to the population. I am of the camp that believes only a small part of the sentenced individuals find an effective rehabilitation curriculum in the prisons. In addition, I believe the sentencing should be along the lines of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- minimums without reduction or allowances of mitigating circumstances:</li> <li>- 1 year prison for carrying a weapon during committing a crime.</li> <li>- 5 years for using a weapon during commission of a crime when not discharging weapon.</li> <li>- 10 years when using weapon in malaise or injury during commission of a crime. - 15 years minimum if a victim or bystander is injured during use of a weapon during commission of a crime (no concurrency for multiple victims)</li> </ul> <p>and finally for each death, of a victim or bystander during a crime with a weapon should result in life in imprisonment, get them rehabilitation so they can be productive in prison.</p>

	<p>Please work on deterrence and rehabilitation, for those criminals. By doing so, with rehabilitation you are returning an otherwise productive and promising person. By doing so you are allowing the other 99.8% (arbitrary number since nobody is researching) to continue to use sporting goods.</p> <p>Overall, as a gun owner for over 58 years and no criminal activity, I believe, especially in Colorado, that there is a strong group of anti-gun but not anti-weapon lobbyist. They earned the right to speak by the horrific criminals who seem to face very little obstacles. In this legislative period you are entrusted to represent myself and more than 1 million Colorado gun owners, you must be a more effective legislator than to create incremental roadblocks to well used sport in this state.</p> <p>btw, I make no distinction between a gun, knife, bat or verbal assault. Thank-you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Christopher Magee Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee members.</p> <p>I am here to voice my concerns on SB25-003</p> <p>As both a citizen of this beautiful state and as a gun owner.</p> <p>Why are we down this road again? We've gone from an assault weapons ban to a full on semi automatic ban disguised as something else. This bills language is contradictory at best and outright dangerous at its worst.</p> <p>First it states that it will ban most semi automatic rifles and shotguns because the technology to permanently affix a magazine to the weapon does not exist and will not exist in the near future. Not only that but in the contradicting language of the bill it bans most semi automatic pistols in current circulation and future sales that are in common use for among other things self defense and target shooting because of the detachable magazine feature despite the talking points it doesn't.</p> <p>The most dangerous aspect of this bill is that if this bill becomes law the Attorney General may add to the restrictions in this bill as they see fit without any checks and balances. That is setting a very dangerous precedent and should be removed from the wording of this bill immediately. If enacted while currently owned weapons are legal...who is to stop grandfathered weapons being banned later with this part of the bill?</p> <p>I urge you to vote no on this travesty of a bill and I would also like to state and you know who you are blaming law enforcement for lack of enforcement of the 2013 magazine ban essentially calling them cowards to me is unforgiveable. The same so called cowards you expect to enforce this legal nightmare.</p>

<p>Vincent Mall Against themselves</p>	<p>I strongly believe in the freedoms that Americans have fought and died over for years. As part of that includes the 2nd amendment in our constitution. I know you'll say it doesn't include semi auto guns but at the time it was written it included the most popular firearms used to protect ones self and property. Today those are semi auto firearms, this new bill isn't protection this is an out right ban. Forr lack of better comprasion, you're trying to be parents telling kids whats best for them. The citizens in this state are not the governments children we don't need to be told what we are aloud to own. This country has fought over this for a long time, shall not be infringed are the most powerful words in the 2nd amendment, please uphold your duty to those words and not let this bill go any further. Lastly I leave with the wise words of Benjamin Franklin "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither." Please vote with the constitution.</p>
<p>Timothy Hasbrouck Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this so called assault weapons ban.</p>
<p>Roger Cook Against themselves</p>	<p>This is another attempt at taking away all guns from law biding citizens while crime is growing out of control. Semi-automatic firearms are the most common in use for home protection. Please kill this bill. It's completely against our 2 amendment rights!</p>
<p>Shandrick Seagroves Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill isn't even written by anyone living in the state of Colorado. It is a sponsored bill by Bloomberg's anti-gun group and is a defacto 100% gun ban. The firearms that this bill will allow 1. do not exist, there are no break , breach loading magazine feed firearms in existence. This is a political over reach by billionaire funded groups to push an agenda, why are they pushing gun control at every legislative session? Why are they not trying to protect the citizens constitutional rights, why are our "elected" officials freely disregarding the constitution and their constituents, blindly following these lobbyists?</p> <p>This bill is 100% unconstitutional. This bill is 100% anti-Colorado, you are turning this state into California and New York and I will use my voice and my vote to remove elected officials that put their political future and fortune above the constitution and the rights of Coloradans.</p>
<p>Gerardo Markoch Against themselves</p>	<p>To the esteemed members of the Senate State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I stand before you today in firm opposition to Senate Bill 25-003. This legislation, which seeks to ban commonly owned semi-automatic firearms, is a misguided overreach that will do little to curb violence while infringing on the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.</p>

	<p>This bill rests on the faulty premise that banning certain types of firearms will prevent criminals from committing violent acts. History has repeatedly shown us that criminals do not abide by laws. They will obtain weapons illegally regardless of any restrictions we impose. This bill only serves to disarm responsible gun owners, leaving them vulnerable to those who intend to do harm.</p> <p>Furthermore, the firearms targeted by this bill are not "weapons of war" as some would have you believe. They are widely used by citizens for self-defense, hunting, and recreational shooting. These firearms are often the preferred choice for women and those with less physical strength seeking to protect themselves. By passing this bill, you would be denying them the means to effectively defend themselves and their loved ones.</p> <p>The Second Amendment enshrines the fundamental right of individuals to keep and bear arms. This right is not absolute, but any restrictions placed upon it must be carefully considered and narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling government interest. Senate Bill 25-003 fails this test. It is a broad, sweeping ban that infringes upon the core of the Second Amendment without demonstrating a clear and substantial benefit to public safety.</p> <p>I urge you to reject this misguided legislation and instead focus your efforts on addressing the root causes of violence, such as mental health issues, poverty, and lack of opportunity. Let us work together to create a safer Colorado for all, without sacrificing the constitutional rights of responsible citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Enrique Serrano Against themselves</p>	<p>Please do not let the bill move forward. At this point, we are taking self defense weapons from citizens that acquired the lawfully and use them for self-protection and at times for hunting. The only ones left with semi-auto weapons/guns are criminals...because they didn't acquire them using the proper means to begin with. As a veteran and citizen, I ask that you do not let this bill continue moving forward. Thank you</p>
<p>Christopher Coghlan Against themselves</p>	<p>Another year another unconstitutional assault weapon ban it seems. It's getting very tiring living in a state with such tyrannical government trying to ban our second amendment all the time. I hope someday somebody comes up with the words that will make you realize that you're the tyrants. Can you explain to yourself how this is not an infringement on our god-given rights? Another law that will only put criminals above it. Another law that seems to only violate supreme Court decision in hopes of delaying law-abiding citizens. They're right until it gets denied by a supreme court again. If only you could be held accountable for violating our constitutional rights. If they are commonly possessed or owned, then the "gun ban/arms ban" law is unconstitutional under the 2nd Amendment and it may not be enforced. There is NO next step historical analogue test to then apply. Why? Because the historical analogue test is implicit in the common possession test so that test is by itself the historical analogue. And there is clearly no historical analog to justify this ban as well which was determined by the supreme Court. How many constitutional decisions can you violate? At what point are you not committing perjury? Is it because you can't read? Well you're obligated to read this so I hope it doesn't just go into the trash, which I wouldn't be surprised if it did as I've always felt my opinion was just thrown into the trash by the dissenting. Like I said I have to do this every year. Take time out</p>

	<p>of my day just to defend my god-given rights. But I will never give up. I will always be here to defend my rights and the rights of all of Americans/ Coloradoians. And I know that's what you're relying on is for us to give up. To that I say it will be a blessing to see when you're no longer in Congress. Which I will vote for every year and make sure that I can do what I can to get my constituents to do the same.</p>
<p>Christopher Coghlan Against himself</p>	<p>Another year another unconstitutional assault weapon ban it seems. It's getting very tiring living in a state with such tyrannical government trying to ban our second amendment all the time. I hope someday somebody comes up with the words that will make you realize that you're the tyrants. Can you explain to yourself how this is not an infringement on our god-given rights? Another law that will only put criminals above it. Another law that seems to only violate supreme Court decision in hopes of delaying law-abiding citizens. They're right until it gets denied by a supreme court again. If only you could be held accountable for violating our constitutional rights. If they are commonly possessed or owned, then the "gun ban/arms ban" law is unconstitutional under the 2nd Amendment and it may not be enforced. There is NO next step historical analogue test to then apply. Why? Because the historical analogue test is implicit in the common possession test so that test is by itself the historical analogue. And there is clearly no historical analog to justify this ban as well which was determined by the supreme Court. How many constitutional decisions can you violate? At what point are you not committing perjury? Is it because you can't read? Well you're obligated to read this so I hope it doesn't just go into the trash, which I wouldn't be surprised if it did as I've always felt my opinion was just thrown into the trash by the dissenting. Like I said I have to do this every year. Take time out of my day just to defend my god-given rights. But I will never give up. I will always be here to defend my rights and the rights of all of Americans/ Coloradoians. And I know that's what you're relying on is for us to give up. To that I say it will be a blessing to see when you're no longer in Congress. Which I will vote for every year and make sure that I can do what I can to get my constituents to do the same.</p>
<p>Shane Saunders Against himself</p>	<p>It has been the right of the American citizen to own a semiautomatic firearm for over a hundred years. In the Heller Supreme Court case, it was clarified that as long as a firearm isn't unusual or not in common use, it is protected by the constitution of the United States. While one can say that a bill will save lives and that may make one feel better about the bill, it can't violate one's inalienable rights. These are clearly written and described by the highest court of the highest level of our government. To disobey this fact is against the very fabric holding together this union of states. Colorado legislators have no right to deny these rights to their citizens and no right to ignore the Supreme Court of these United States. To do so would to upset the balance of power in our government which has been designed to promote democracy and longevity of our Union.</p> <p>On another note, the fact of the matter is that these weapons are used for lawful and just purposes. With the AR15 being the most common rifle in America and numbered in the tens of millions, it cannot be denied that this tool can be employed in self defense by any owner at any time in a legal manner, making these in common practice use for the purpose of self defense. Including all gas-operated semiautomatic firearms further increases the number. Denying future citizens the</p>

	<p>ability to achieve this level of self protection is at the least irresponsible of our legislators and in actuality immoral. Banning law abiding citizens from these weapons only decreases their safety from criminals who have no regard for this piece of legislation, unlike the law-abiding people who will be forced to comply or lose their livelihood.</p> <p>I urge this committee to refocus on other bills that will markedly increase public safety by encouraging those who use these weapons for evil to seek new paths in life and more ability to avoid entering criminal activity. This bill punishes the law abiding citizen matchlessly against those with evil intentions.</p>
<p>Ryan Moss Against themselves</p>	<p>Any regulation or restriction on the 2nd Amendment of our constitution is an infringement upon our right as an American citizens. Enacting this regulation into law is a violation of our American rights. "Assault" weapons are just weapons, or arms that we are given the right to keep and bear those arms. The media and opposing political figures such as Gov Polis have radicalized this ADJECTIVE of ASSAULT to incite fear and over step their control of the state and counties and believe that a state and local law can over rule a federal law. This is an injustice to the state of Colorado and the United States of America.</p>
<p>Nathaniel Wenger Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this ban! It is our God given (Biblically and morally) right to Keep &amp; Bear Arms. This shall not be infringed EVER! This is by definition what the Constitution and Bill of Rights translates too. I am against this, and nor will I comply to tyrants that move to approve this illegal, unconstitutional, and tyrannical Bill!</p>
<p>Lawrence Gaul Against themselves</p>	<p>I am very much against this regulation. If you actually read the second amendment of the US Constitution you will see that the right to buy our arms is not to be infringe upon and this clearly infringes on our right to Bear Arms. I use my weapons Both In target practice And hunting. My son, nodin, is in Georgia currently training with the US Army at Fort Moore. He also rejects this ban.</p>
<p>Bob Brinkerhoff Against themselves</p>	<p>I would strongly urge all Representatives of the People of the State of Colorado, be it in the State House or the State Senate, regardless of party affiliation, vote against this bill. It is a direct violation of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America and since it is, it would be null and void for being contrary to the US Constitution. We, the People, are growing tired of this nonsense. Stop it now, before it has to go before the Courts that will undoubtedly strike it down as Unconstitutional. Thank you!</p>
<p>Tony Talarico Against themselves</p>	<p>Good morning, my name is Tony Talarico, and I'm here today to strongly oppose Senate Bill 25-003. While I understand the desire to address violence in our communities, this legislation is deeply flawed, both in its constitutional implications and its practical effects.</p>

First, let's talk about the scope of this bill. It seeks to ban any rifle or shotgun with a detachable magazine. This is not cutting-edge or modern technology. This technology dates back to the late 1800s and has been in common use for well over a century. These firearms are lawfully owned by millions of Americans for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. The Supreme Court has already ruled in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* that firearms "in common use" are protected under the Second Amendment. Banning such widely owned and historically significant tools is not only unconstitutional but ignores over 150 years of responsible, lawful use.

Second, this legislation is profoundly misguided when it comes to addressing crime. According to FBI data, rifles of all types account for less than 3% of all firearm-related homicides annually, while handguns account for over 90% of firearm-related murders. Banning rifles, a statistically insignificant tool in violent crime, is not only ineffective but distracts from real solutions, such as addressing illegal firearm trafficking, and improving mental health resources.

Third, this legislation disproportionately affects underserved and minority communities. From a liberal perspective, we know that police have historically failed to adequately protect underserved populations, including racial minorities and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Supreme Court has even ruled in cases like *Castle Rock v. Gonzales* that law enforcement has no specific duty to protect individuals. This makes access to effective self-defense tools all the more critical for these communities. Denying them this right through a misguided ban is not only inequitable but dangerous.

Additionally, it's important to highlight that this bill represents an extreme approach compared to similar laws in other states. Its scope and lack of evidence-based rationale set it apart as a particularly radical measure. Worse, this legislation will no doubt be challenged in court, wasting countless tax dollars on a legal battle to defend a law we already know is unconstitutional. This money could be better spent on proven public safety initiatives that actually address the root causes of violence.

Finally, we must acknowledge the economic and social consequences of such a sweeping ban. Firearms manufacturers, retailers, and associated industries contribute significantly to our economy. This legislation threatens jobs and livelihoods without providing meaningful public safety benefits.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 25-003 is not only unconstitutional but uninformed and ineffective. It penalizes law-abiding citizens, targets an insignificant percentage of crime-related firearms, and disproportionately affects the very communities it claims to protect. I urge this body to reject this legislation and instead focus on meaningful, evidence-based solutions to improve safety for all Coloradans.

	Thank you.
JJ Vlahos Against themselves	Protect my 2A rights
WILLIAM BAYLES Against themselves	The proposed ban on semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines will do little or nothing to reduce firearms violence. It will ban a broad class of firearms already in common use within the state, many of which are seldom if ever used in crimes.
Mitchell Davis Against themselves	SB25-003 is wholly unconstitutional and frankly a disgrace to be brought forward. The sponsors of this bill are grandstanding without actually putting forward common sense gun reform that is reasonable and responsible. Putting a bill up like this is a complete waste of state resources and stands no chance of constitutional review. You seek to ban every common use firearm in the name of safety yet you are doing achieving nothing but virtue signaling. Stop wasting tax payers money put something worth forward worthy of your pay and title as representatives.
Todd Gerlings Against themselves	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed legislation (25-003) that will effectively ban all semi-automatic firearms. The bill has many problematic features, and its intent would ban all existing firearms that are in common use today. The language in the bill attacks the majority of the firearms in production today and those that are in possession by the citizens of this state for lawful use. All of these firearms are covered by our 2nd Amendment and recent SCOTUS decisions have validated our right to own these firearms. This bill would violate our US Constitutional rights. It also would cause financial harm to those who currently possess the firearms that would be banned, as you could not legally sell and legally transfer them. A Colorado FFL dealer would not be willing to buy them as they would not have a market to sell them. The provision in the bill that allows the Attorney General the power to change the wording of this legislation at their discretion is highly troubling. I believe that alone bypasses the proper role of the legislative bodies to be the sole source of legislation. The law-abiding citizens of Colorado deserve better than this.</p> <p>As a fifty-five year plus citizen of this state, I am alarmed that I must continue to spend significant time and financial resources to maintain my rights as so clearly spelled out and guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. The constant attacks on our rights, that are being funded by out of state activists like Bloomberg, threaten our personal freedoms. I urge you to take a stand to protect our God given rights.</p>

	<p>Banning the vast majority of firearms will leave a defenseless population in a state and community where violence is rapidly rising. A 1997 DOJ/FBI study on violent attacks on law enforcement officers makes it very clear that the violent offender could care less about the law, and they begin to carry weapons in their early teens. It would be prudent to believe that such behavior has become even more widespread in the years since, as our crime statistics continue to rise. The offenders have no problem attacking law enforcement officers who they know are armed and can protect themselves. How do you think these offenders will respond when they know that the civilian population is being disarmed? Disarming the law abiding is a fatal mistake.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Todd A. Gerlings</p> <p>Westminster, CO</p>
<p>Amador Lucero Against themselves</p>	<p>SB25-003 is not the solution that Colorado needs. This bill would put restriction on the majority of Firearms owned by a large percentage of citizens in Colorado. Additionally, this bill violates Rights granted to the citizens of United States of America via the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.</p> <p>This is another attempt to solve a problem that is not the Firearm. Should the Laws that exist today be enforced, with adequate and thorough background checks, Firearms that legal citizens have the right to bear would not be used for the kinds of crimes that some, it appears, are attempting to prevent. This bill is similar to outlawing all motor vehicles because some law breaking citizens under the influence take the lives of others that are on our Roadways.</p> <p>I am against SB25-003 in it's entirety. This bill should not move forward in any version.</p>
<p>Scott Lanzen Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against SB25-003 as I don't see how this is going to keep these types of weapons from getting into the hands of those intending to commit crimes. The ability to own and use these types of guns helps me protect both my family and the organization that I work for from those intending to commit crimes. Passing this bill would increase this risk significantly. On top of that, I see this as in direct conflict with my second amendment rights.</p>
<p>Craig Selner Against themselves</p>	<p>This legislation is neither authored by the citizens of Colorado nor designed with their interests in mind. It poses a direct threat to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Crafted by external groups, it disregards constitutional rights, individual freedoms, and the welfare of Colorado's residents.</p>

<p>Matt Otis Against themselves</p>	<p>I am completely against a bill on semi automatic firearms. This is the most common firearm made that citizens use for sport and to defend themselves. Instead of trying to take away or radically limit the second amendment rights of law abiding citizens, I would suggest a more common sense approach. Continue to strengthen our background check system. Invest heavily in our mental health systems. And any other common sense measure to keep guns in the hands of law abiding citizens and out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill. Guns do not kill people, people kill people. Blanket legislation that affects legal gun owning citizens, instead of targeting criminals and people suffering from mental health issues can not be tolerated. We are an outdoor state full of recreation activities and as a law abiding citizen I do not support any legislation that limits my second amendment rights. Please vote against this proposed legislation and any other legislation that would limit the second amendment rights of all law abiding citizens.</p>
<p>Daniel Herrmann Against themselves</p>	<p>I am fully against this bill. This is clearly just a blatant attempt at furthering a political agenda aimed against anything related to private ownership of firearms. This would do absolutely nothing to improve the 'safety' of society but would infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens. This bill is also poorly written by someone who clearly does not understand firearms as it would include the prohibition of non 'so called' assault weapons. I.e., many standard hunting rifles and sporting handguns could fall into this very poor and broad definition. Which is what I believe is the real and deceptive actual agenda.</p>
<p>Lynette Merrill Against themselves</p>	<p>The Constitution of our great nation ensures my right to bear arms. My right to bear arms against a tyrannical government shall not be infringed. Period. These measures are an infringement and they are nationally unconstitutional.</p> <p>With all of the illegals this current administration of our state has allowed into our communities, we absolutely need to be able to protect ourselves. These constant measures to restrict my rights need to stop.</p>
<p>Matthew Anthony Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill shows the depth and breadth of the Democratic party's contempt for the Constitution and for the people in this state. It is a fact and evidence free subjugation of people's rights in the name of some emotional mission for which there is NO data supporting its effectiveness (and frankly much more showing its detriment).</p> <p>Democrats in charge of this state constantly complain about stereotyping, racism, discrimination and so forth but have no problem painting the entire class of the gun owning public with the same brush as criminals and deranged antisocial lunatics who commit crimes and punishing all of us as the same. The statistics show that gun crime is highest amongst black and Hispanic demographics, so using this committee's reasoning, wouldn't it be similarly effective to ban all blacks and Hispanics from owning guns "for the children"? Obviously that reasoning is ludicrous on its face, and yet the same ridiculous non-logical reasoning is being trotted out here and slammed down the throats of the entire public of this state, constitutionality bedamned.</p>

	<p>I'm fairly certain that the proponents of this bill are fully aware that this law will be enjoined almost immediately, and that the likelihood that this law and other semiauto or "assault weapons" bans are more than likely to be struck down on a Constitutional basis by the Supreme Court of the United States in the near future. And I'm fairly certain that the proponents of this bill don't care, because Democrats and the powers that control this state have done nothing if not show their disdain for the rights we are given by God and by the Founders, while making up whatever other "rights" they want for their political cause celebre du jour.</p> <p>I'm also fairly certain that the proponents of this bill are realizing that the American people in their voting in 2024 sent a resounding message of disapproval for the elitist progressive agenda we've all been subjected to for the previous 4 years, and that this is some misguided attempt to thumb their nose at that rebuttal and show their power and resolve, using the law abiding public of this state as grist to the mill of that "resistance" message. I'm also certain that this is buoyed by the largely imported voter base that has invaded this state from blue states over the last 5-10 years, where that same public is continuing to vote for the same idiocy that turned those states like California, Illinois and New York into expensive, crime ridden, unlivable hellholes. Colorado has fallen so far from its balanced, common-sense roots that it expressed as the state I fell in love with when I moved here over 20 years ago.</p> <p>Let's be clear - this law does nothing to prevent the "tragedies" that is proponents purport it to. There's no evidence to support it and plenty of evidence to the contrary, and the proponents of this bill know it and don't care. If these lawmakers were serious about making a positive impact on the state with regards to crime and violence, then they'd be focusing on issues like illegal immigration, cost of living, mental health, and so forth. The fact that they are not speaks volumes - this bill is about subjugating the people of this state to their elitist, progressive agenda and playing to a radical anti-gun voter base that thrives on emotion, fact-free conjecture, and a whole lot of astroturfed Bloomberg money so they can continue to "Resist" and secure themselves their power.</p> <p>Your utter contempt for the Constitution and for the people is shameful, only compounded by the fact that voters in this state seem reticent to do what they should do and repudiate you by sending you into political retirement. I am ashamed of my representation in this state, and I can only appeal to more rational, moderate and Constitutionally educated minds to have the courage to stand up to this nonsense and put this bill in the trash can of tyrannical history where it belongs.</p>
<p>Rhys Williams Against himself</p>	<p>As of now the United States sits at the precipice of an uncertain and dangerous future. A convicted felon has taken the highest office in our nation, and ushered in a cabinet filled to the brim with yes-men who will cater to his every whim. Our rivals overseas, both economic and military, are preparing to use the chaos he will cause to their advantage, and a significant portion of our own populace are chomping at the bit to unleash a tidal wave of bigotry and violence against those who disagree with</p>

	<p>them. Just days ago Trump pardon over a thousand violent insurrections in a gesture that will condone political violence, and doubtlessly incite it down the line.</p> <p>As such, it deeply saddens me to see that members of our own state government are proposing SB25-003. This bill, on top of being a piece of legislation clearly proposed by someone who had never held a firearm in their life, comes at a time when US citizens like you, me, and the people we love need to be arming ourselves more than ever. In these uncertain times it is paramount that the most vulnerable among us, those from marginalized backgrounds and communities, or those with loved ones from these communities, be allowed to defend ourselves and those we care for to the fullest extent.</p> <p>As such I call on you to reject SB25-003, and to openly admonish those responsible for its proposal at such a tumultuous time. I ask you to do this not only for the reasons stated above, but for the reasons I shall list henceforth.</p> <p>First of all, this bill is the exact sort of “culture war” legislation that Republicans are banking on, and by supporting it you would be playing directly into their hands. They will use its passing to fear monger and gain more support, allowing them to increase their already strong grasp on power across the nation.</p> <p>Secondly, I highly doubt that law enforcement agencies will be subject to the restrictions this bill proposes, just as they were given unfair exemptions from Proposition KK, or the Firearms &amp; Ammunition Excise Tax. In what world is it fair to allow the already overfunded, overprotected, and unregulated police forces of our nation to roam our streets with their semiautomatic weapons while denying us the same tools to defend ourselves from threats that many officers are willing to ignore or actively support. Unless you strip the police of their weapons as well, it will be abundantly clear that this law is not about safety but about control of the population you have been elected to support and defend.</p> <p>I ask you, for the sake of my loved ones and all those now at risk of violence from the political right, to reject this proposal and instead focus on laws that will defend us from the corruption spreading from Washington. Make the right choice, the choice that will defend the true citizens of the United States, those who wish to live in peace and security, without the threat of bigotry and hatred looming over our heads.</p> <p>Rhys Williams.</p>
<p>Sabrina Yang Against themselves</p>	<p>Testimony Against SB25-003</p> <p>Dear Chairperson, Members of the Committee &amp; Hearing Panel,</p>

	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB25-003. While I understand the intent behind this legislation, I believe it poses significant economic, social and ethical challenges that could have lasting negative impacts on our community.</p> <p>This bill poses a direct threat to our Second Amendment rights, which guarantee that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."</p> <p>Our Founding Fathers recognized the importance of an armed populace to ensure individual liberty and safeguard against tyranny. SB25-003 undermines this principle by imposing unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding citizens who responsibly exercise their constitutional rights.</p> <p>Rather than targeting those who misuse firearms, this bill penalizes responsible gun owners and jeopardizes our ability to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. Public safety can be achieved without infringing on our constitutional freedoms.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to vote against SB25-003 and uphold the rights guaranteed to all Americans under the Constitution.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Kevin Laut Against himself</p>	<p>Ladies and gentlemen,</p> <p>Today, I testify before you to discuss the crucial importance of protecting our Second Amendment rights, especially in light of the rising crime rates we are witnessing in places like Denver and Colorado. This amendment reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."</p> <p>The Second Amendment is not just about hunting or sport shooting; it's about ensuring personal freedom and security. It's a safeguard against tyranny, both from external threats and from potential overreach by our government. The framers of the Constitution recognized that an armed populace is a free populace because they understood the lessons of history where disarmament often led to oppression.</p> <p>In recent years, Colorado has seen a significant uptick in crime. Denver, in particular, has experienced a sharp rise in violent crimes. For instance, aggravated assaults have nearly doubled since 2012, and homicides have tripled over the last decade, with rates now exceeding the national average. These statistics are not isolated; property crimes, including motor vehicle thefts, have also surged, making Colorado one of the highest crime rate states in the country.</p>

	<p>This increase in criminal activity underscores the importance of the Second Amendment more than ever. Semi-automatic firearms, often the target of restrictive legislation, are vital for self-defense. They provide citizens with the capacity to protect themselves and their loved ones against the unpredictability of crime:</p> <p>Self-Defense: In a city and state where violent crime rates are climbing, semi-automatic weapons offer the speed and efficiency needed for personal protection, particularly in situations where seconds count.</p> <p>Deterrence: Knowing that a significant portion of the population is armed can act as a deterrent to would-be criminals, potentially reducing the likelihood of home invasions or street crimes.</p> <p>Equality in Defense: Semi-automatic firearms level the playing field. They allow individuals, regardless of physical strength, to defend themselves against potentially stronger or multiple assailants.</p> <p>Community Safety: When law enforcement is stretched thin or response times are delayed, as seen in Denver with increasing crime rates, citizens equipped with firearms can act as a stopgap to protect their neighborhoods.</p> <p>Responsible Ownership: The argument for gun control often overlooks the importance of responsible gun ownership. With the right education and adherence to safety protocols, semi-automatic guns can be managed safely, further supporting the case for their ownership.</p> <p>In the face of these rising crime statistics, we must not undermine the constitutional rights that empower citizens to protect themselves. Instead, we should focus on measures that enhance safety while respecting our freedoms:</p> <p>Promote Gun ownership and training. The areas of higher gun ownership are proven to have less violent crime—higher rates of ownership act as a deterrent to violent criminals.</p> <p>Address mental health issues that might contribute to violent behaviors.</p> <p>Enforce current laws more effectively, ensuring they serve their purpose without infringing on rights. This is critical to sentence criminals to tough, lengthy incarceration and high bail.</p> <p>We need to strike a balance that reduces crime while preserving the right to bear arms. Semi-automatic weapons are not the problem; they are part of the solution in ensuring that law-abiding citizens can defend themselves in an increasingly uncertain world.</p> <p>This bill will do absolutely nothing to fight gun violence. It will only infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kevin Laut</p>
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<p>Lisa Gutierrez</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this bill. SB25-003: "Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices"</p> <p>This bill seeks to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of specific semiautomatic firearms. It also classifies devices that increase the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm as dangerous weapons.</p> <p>This bill goes against everyone's second rights amendment. Do not let this bill pass.</p>
<p>Lee Pohlenz</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>As a Colorado native and Denver resident I submit my testimony against SB25-003 for the following reasons and urge the leaders here today to also reject the passing of this bill.</p> <p>SB25-003 would ban virtually all semi auto rifles, shotguns and some pistols that accept a detachable magazine. These firearms are commonly used for lawful purposes and protected by the 2nd Amendment (2A). It would also violate the Fifth and 14th Amendments.</p> <p>The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has ruled on 5 cases over the last 86 years affirming our 2A constitutional right.</p> <p>Miller (1939): The Court held that weapons "in common use" are protected. Semi-auto rifles and shotguns that accept a detachable magazine are in fact, "in common use", recreationally, for personal protection and by law enforcement.</p> <p>Heller (2008): SCOTUS struck down Washington D.C.'s draconian handgun ban and requirement for firearms in the home to be kept nonfunctional, declaring such measures unconstitutional. SCOTUS made it clear that the 2A protects an individual's right to own firearms, independent of service in a militia. The court made it perfectly clear in Heller that firearms in "common use" are protected by the 2A and it was made clear that the government can not arbitrarily restrict firearm ownership.</p> <p>McDonald (2010): SCOTUS found Chicago's handgun ban unconstitutional. Affirmed that the 14th Amendment incorporates the 2A which makes it applicable to states and incorporated the 2A to apply against state laws.</p> <p>Caetano (2016): SCOTUS overturned a Massachusetts ban on stun guns (yes, stun guns). This decision expanded on the principles established in Heller and reaffirmed that the 2A extends to all bearable arms, including those that did not exist at the time of the Founding. This case reinforces the principle that a government body cannot arbitrarily exclude certain types of arms from constitutional protection.</p>

	<p>Bruen (2022): This landmark case affirms the 2A extends beyond the home. SCOTUS also rejected the "interest-balancing" test often used to uphold gun laws, which weighed the government's objectives against individual rights. The case also established "text, history, and tradition" framework, requiring that any law restricting the right to keep and bear arms must be consistent with historical firearm regulations from the time of the Founding or Reconstruction. This means that modern gun control laws cannot be justified merely by appeals to public safety or policy goals but must demonstrate roots in the historical understanding of the 2A. SB25-003 clearly violates the Bruen standard.</p> <p>Additionally, SB25-003 may also violate the 5th Amendment's Takings Clause, which prohibits the government from taking private property for public use without just compensation. By effectively banning the transfer or replacement of specific firearms already owned, the bill deprives individuals of the value of their lawfully owned property without proper compensation, particularly if those firearms are rendered unusable or lost.</p> <p>SB25-003 may also violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. By grandfathering existing firearm owners but prohibiting future acquisitions, the legislation creates a class of individuals who are privileged to own certain firearms while denying the same rights to others. This unequal treatment could be interpreted as arbitrary and discriminatory, undermining the principle of equal protection under the law. Furthermore, limitations on firearm transfers, such as passing them down to heirs, may impinge on property rights and interfere with personal and familial decisions protected by the due process guarantees of the 5th and 14th Amendments.</p>
<p>Diane Borgman Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a legal resident of Colorado. I am against this Bill, SB25-003. Under our US Constitution's Second Amendment, American citizens are recognized with the God-given right to bear arms. And, this right is not to be infringed. Period. This Amendment recognizes each adult citizen's fully protected rights for self-protection, which includes the right to learn how to protect oneself using fire arms. This keeps the individual themselves more safe. And, also supports the greater safety and security of the safety of that citizen's family, neighborhood, community state and country.</p> <p>This Bill, SB25-003, would work to undermine those securities. And, it goes against the Second Amendment, which states our rights shall not be infringed. Period.</p>
<p>Brian Cunningham Against themselves</p>	<p>As a fellow Coloradan, I urge you to please OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003 in your committee hearing on January 28th.</p> <p>Senate Bill 25-003 bans so-called "specified semiautomatic firearms," which are defined in the bill as "...a semiautomatic rifle or semiautomatic shotgun with a</p>

	<p>detachable magazine or a gas-operated semiautomatic handgun with a detachable magazine." Semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines have existed for well over a century, and these platforms certainly fit the definition of "in common use" set forth by the District of Columbia V. Heller decision.</p> <p>This bill unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners, and does nothing to combat or prevent violent crime in our state.</p> <p>Again, I urge you to please OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003. Thank you for all that you do for our state</p>
<p>Kurtis Werner Against themselves</p>	<p>Colorado General Assembly,</p> <p>I please ask that you to reconsider the ramifications of this bill and terminate it. I believe that this bill is extremely vague and a blatant infringement on the rights of US citizens. This bill aims to ban a huge portion of available firearms indirectly by saying that it is a magazine ban. Looking to enforce pinned 15 round capacity is unrealistic to modify firearms to adhere to in a time where so many firearms take detachable magazines. In addition it says that firearms may only be transferred to an heir but doesn't define what an heir is. The biggest issue with this bill is the open ended nature of how the attorney general can change terms at any time. I believe this bill will only increase the number of firearms purchased and will not prevent violent crime in any way. This bill will only negatively impact law abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Kurtis</p>
<p>Joshua Salem Against themselves</p>	<p>Testimony Against SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices</p> <p>Honorable Committee Members,</p> <p>I stand before you today, as a U.S. Army Special Operations veteran, to voice my strong opposition to SB25-003, the Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices bill. This bill, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms and classify rapid-fire devices as dangerous weapons, is not only misguided but also unconstitutional.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution clearly states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This amendment has been interpreted by the Supreme Court in landmark cases such as District of Columbia v.</p>

	<p>Heller (2008), which reaffirmed that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms for lawful purposes, including self-defense within the home.</p> <p>SB25-003 directly infringes upon this fundamental right by imposing severe restrictions on the ownership and use of semiautomatic firearms, which are commonly used for self-defense, hunting, and recreational shooting. The bill's broad definition of "specified semiautomatic firearms" and "rapid-fire devices" encompasses a wide range of firearms that law-abiding citizens use responsibly. This overreach not only violates the Second Amendment but also undermines the principles of individual liberty and self-defense that are core to our nation's founding.</p> <p>Furthermore, the penalties outlined in the bill, including classifying unlawful manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, or purchase of a specified semiautomatic firearm as a class 2 misdemeanor and a class 6 felony for subsequent offenses, are disproportionate and punitive. These penalties will disproportionately affect law-abiding gun owners and do little to address the root causes of gun violence.</p> <p>In conclusion, SB25-003 is a clear violation of the Second Amendment and an overreach of government authority. I urge you to reject this bill and uphold the constitutional rights of the citizens of Colorado. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Justin Hunt Against himself</p>	<p><b>**Testimony Opposing Colorado Senate Bill 25-003**</b></p> <p>Dear Members of the Colorado Senate State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I am here today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, which proposes a significant restriction on the Second Amendment rights of Colorado citizens by banning the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of certain semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices.</p> <p>Firstly, this bill directly infringes upon the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, which guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. The language of the amendment is clear, stating that this right "shall not be infringed." SB 25-003, by prohibiting the sale and ownership of commonly-used firearms, does exactly that. The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that firearms in common use for lawful purposes are protected under this amendment. The firearms targeted by this bill are among the most commonly owned in the U.S., used for self-defense, sport shooting, and hunting, not just for criminal activities.</p> <p>Moreover, this legislation appears to be more about political posturing than actual public safety. Past gun control measures in Colorado, including restrictions on</p>

	<p>magazine capacity, have not demonstrably reduced violent crime or mass shootings. Instead, they have placed burdens on law-abiding citizens while doing little to curb criminal activity. Criminals, by definition, do not adhere to laws; thus, targeting legal gun owners does not address the root causes of gun violence.</p> <p>Economically, this bill threatens the livelihoods of many in the firearms industry, from manufacturers to small retail businesses across Colorado. The ripple effect could lead to job losses and economic downturn in communities dependent on these sectors. Small businesses, in particular, would suffer, as they lack the resources to adapt to such sweeping changes without significant financial strain or closure.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill's broad and somewhat vague definitions, like those for "rapid-fire devices," leave room for overly expansive interpretations that could lead to future restrictions or bans on even more types of firearms or accessories. This vagueness could chill the market for legal transactions and innovations within the firearms industry due to fear of unintentional non-compliance.</p> <p>From a practical standpoint, the enforcement of such a ban would be complex and costly, straining law enforcement resources which are already spread thin. Rather than focusing on preventive measures, community policing, or addressing mental health issues, which are more directly linked to reducing violence, resources would be diverted to enforce a ban that targets the tools rather than the behaviors or conditions leading to misuse.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the constitutional implications, the lack of evidence supporting such bans' effectiveness in reducing crime, the economic impact on the state, and the broader effects on personal freedoms when deciding on SB 25-003. Instead of this bill, I encourage the pursuit of policies that genuinely address the root causes of violence, like improving mental health services, tackling poverty, and ensuring robust law enforcement strategies that do not infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against Senate Bill 25-003.</p> <p>Sincerely, Justin Hunt</p>
<p>CarolynSue Hall Against themselves</p>	<p>Semi auto firearms with detachable magazines have been around for well over a hundred years. These platforms well fit the term" in common use" as set forth in the District of Columbia V Heller decision.</p> <p>Semi-Automatic firearms are very convenient, reliable, self protection, as well as important sport firearms.</p>

<p>Charles Hewins Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representative,</p> <p>I humbly request you vote "No" on this bill. As a gun owner, retired USAF Colonel, hunter, and outdoor enthusiast I love everything about this state. However, this bill will make many of the weapons numerous voters like me already own illegal. It will empower and embolden dangerous criminals and take away the 2d Amendment right of law abiding citizens like me. This bill is folly and must not pass. It is an egregious display of government overreach and shows an extreme lack of understanding of the impacts of "well intentioned" gun laws. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Debra Clay Against themselves</p>	<p>Criminals will always find a way to kill people, as sadly was recently shown by the use of vehicles to plow down innocent citizens. It is these same criminals who will ignore the laws governing the ownership of these firearms.</p> <p>As a law abiding citizen, I value my right to protect myself, and it is important to me to own and train with a firearm that is safe and easy to use.</p> <p>I see semi automatic firearms as a preferred option for self protection and sport.</p>
<p>Brian Taylor Against themselves</p>	<p>Please stop taking away my right to bare arms.</p>
<p>Jonathan Boeke Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>I strongly oppose SB25-003, the "Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices" bill. This legislation is overly broad, potentially unconstitutional, and unlikely to reduce gun violence effectively.</p> <p>The bill's scope is concerning, banning a wide range of common semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines, including rifles, shotguns, and handguns. This goes far beyond traditional "assault weapon" bans and infringes on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Colorado's existing 15-round magazine capacity limit, enacted in 2013, has not shown evidence of reducing crime [<a href="https://rallyforourrights.com/colorado-graph-12-gun-control-laws-pass-in-4-years-and-homicide-rate-skyrockets/">https://rallyforourrights.com/colorado-graph-12-gun-control-laws-pass-in-4-years-and-homicide-rate-skyrockets/</a>]. In fact, crime</p>

	<p>rates have reportedly increased since its implementation. This new bill is likely to be equally ineffective while placing undue burdens on responsible gun owners.</p> <p>The bill's vague language regarding "rapid-fire devices" is problematic, potentially criminalizing common firearm modifications like precision triggers. This ambiguity could lead to unintended consequences and difficulties in enforcement.</p> <p>Furthermore, recent Supreme Court decisions, such as <i>New York State Rifle &amp; Pistol Association v. Bruen</i> (2022), have reinforced Second Amendment protections. This bill is likely to face legal challenges, potentially wasting taxpayer money in protracted court battles.</p> <p>The bill fails to address root causes of gun violence, such as mental health issues or socioeconomic factors. Instead, it focuses on restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminals who are unlikely to comply with these new restrictions.</p> <p>I urge you to vote against SB25-003 and instead focus on evidence-based solutions that do not infringe on constitutional rights. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jonathan Boeke</p>
<p>Kerri Copper Against themselves</p>	<p>Please consider,,, the importance, and constitutionality, of law-abiding citizens to possess firearms,, for self-defense yes, but also for recreation, as with AGirl&amp;AGun organization, for security in the wild while hiking, for training our out-of-state grandchildren to be responsible gun-owners, as is their right; your right and mine. Do you think criminals will disappear if you pass this Bill?!!?</p>
<p>Susan Tabor Against themselves</p>	<p>As an owner of a few of these weapons, I need to express my disappointment in yet another attempt to take away every citizens right to bear arms and defend themselves and their country if needed. This is one of the basic rights that this country was founded on. Our forefathers gave us this right in order for the people to have the ability to defend themselves. That right is even more important now, with all of the unrest in the world today. Please vote no.</p> <p>Thank you, Susan Tabor</p>
<p>Leonard Sitongia Against themselves</p>	<p>Honorable Representatives,</p> <p>I'm politically on the left and I strongly support the right to bear arms. Fundamentally, I oppose this bill. This bill is bizarre in how broad its scope is. Banning all semi-automatic firearms? Banning removable magazines? That's almost</p>

	<p>all firearms. That's going way too far in banning firearms. It is important that all citizens have access to firearms, through private ownership if not some type of sanctioned civil militia. We can see how large the threat of extremism is in America. It is getting worse with every election. It is vital that everyone have access to appropriate firearms that have some measure of parity with those who are threatening our freedom with their extremist agendas.</p> <p>Sincerely, Leonard Sitongia 2025-1-25</p>
<p>Rick Sexton Against themselves</p>	<p>I'm a law abiding citizen who strongly opposes this bill that takes away my rights. We live in the country and need to have access to guns for our protection. Semi automatic weapons are the most common weapons there are and they need to remain legal. Criminals will not follow gun laws and that places EVERYONE AT RISK. Please vote NO on this bill. Thanks</p>
<p>George Barnes Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose the proposed semiautomatic firearm ban. This is a second amendment infringement and will only punish law abiding citizens. It will also be detrimental to local firearm related small businesses, who have already been harmed by Prop KK.</p>
<p>Delores Kaiser Against themselves</p>	<p>Gun owners and concealed carry permit holders are some of the most upstanding citizens in society.</p> <p>The Crime Prevention Research Center found the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Law Enforcement are 10 times more likely to commit a felony or misdemeanor compared to concealed carry permit holders</li> <li>* Concealed carry permit holders have 1/12th the firearm violation rates compared to law enforcement</li> <li>* Non-permit holders are 10.6 times more likely to drive recklessly than concealed carry permit holders</li> <li>* "The overwhelming majority of peer-reviewed academic research by economists and criminologists concludes that ownership of permitted concealed handguns causes a reduction in violent crime rates"</li> </ul> <p>If concealed carry permit holders not only follow the law but reduce violent crime, then why would the Colorado State Legislature consider a bill that would unjustly target this group of citizens and prevent them from obtaining these firearms?</p> <p>Almost 18% of Coloradans have a concealed carry permit according to the Crime Prevention Research Center and this group of Coloradans make our state safer!</p>

	<p>SB25-003 will do nothing to prevent convicted criminals from obtaining the firearms banned by this bill. It is already illegal to sell or transfer a firearm to someone who would not pass a background check.</p> <p>Those who are committing violent crimes, by definition, do not care about the law and do not care about this bill or any other gun control. They are criminals and criminals do not follow the law.</p>
<p>Joe Jones Against themselves</p>	<p>I want to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 25-003. We must keep our Second Amendment rights for private citizens to keep and bear arms to maintain our freedoms! I used to work with a lady who had escaped Hungary during Communist rule. First the Nazis had invaded, then Russia had "liberated" them. Under their rule they enforced gun registration, then a year later they confiscated everyone's guns.</p> <p>She said emphatically that when they lost their guns they lost the rest of there freedoms soon afterword!</p> <p>Please stop trying to take away our freedoms!!!</p> <p>Very Sincerely, Joe Jones</p>
<p>Melissa Colonna For themselves</p>	<p>Please support this bill, as it addresses a critical loophole in our laws that poses a serious threat to public safety. There is no valid reason to oppose this measure—none at all. Your foremost responsibility as our representatives is to ensure the safety of our communities, and this bill unquestionably moves us closer to that goal.</p> <p>When your time in public service ends, will you be able to tell your community, and especially our children, that you did everything possible to protect them? Limiting access to high-capacity magazines is a reasonable and necessary step. These tools serve no purpose other than to inflict greater harm.</p> <p>We urge you to fulfill your duty to the public by supporting this life-saving legislation. Together, we can make our communities safer. Thank you.</p> <p>Melissa</p>

<p>Michael Hoffman Against themselves</p>	<p>I believe the proposed bill is against the constitution of the United States of America and as such you may be prosecuted for treason. Do not subject yourselves to criminal activity.</p>
<p>John Culbertson Against themselves</p>	<p>This is an unconstitutional proposal. The right to bear arms shall not be infringed.</p>
<p>Douglas Wright Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a Patriot and a Veteran. It is our right to own semi automatic weapons. We no longer live in the stone age. Full automatic weapons are reserved for the military and are regulated on the civilian side.</p> <p>Semi automatic weapons have been around for ages. Most of us learned to shot with a 22 caliber semi auto rifle. We hunt with semi automatic rifles and shotguns. There has never been an issue with the ownership of said weapons to include handguns. The real issue is we are not looking more closely at why and whom is committing crimes with this style of weapons. A weapon can not jump off the table and shoot someone anymore than a hammer can. The problem lies with the human holding the gun. It is my right to own firearms due to the 2nd amendment. The framers put no restrictions on what one can or can not own. I will not have my rights trampled upon!!!</p> <p>Douglas Wright Grand junction, Colorado 81505</p>
<p>Skyler Brown Against themselves</p>	<p>There is Absolutely no way that you can ban Semi Auto rifles/shotguns without impeding on my rights as an American. As a Veteran, I know the Importance of freedoms, and liberties that Citizens hold. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed. You Are on the Direct Route to Infringing on our rights. Show us that you are Capable of your positions, and that you deserve to be re elected in the future. Do not allow this Bill to pass. If you allow this Bill to remove peoples Rights, Not only will you have failed us as our Governors, but you will failed yourselves as Americans.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: COMMITTEE FOR STATE, VETERANS, MILITARY AFFAIRS RE: SB25-003 CONCERNING PROHIBITED ACTIVITY INVOLVING SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARMS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, TRANSFER, SALE, AND PURCHASE OF SPECIFIED SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARMS AND CLASSIFYING A</p>

	<p>DEVICE THAT INCREASES THE RATE OF FIRE OF A SEMIAUTOMATIC FIREARM AS A DANGEROUS WEAPON.</p> <p>SPONSORS: SULLIVAN, GONZALES</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, CONCERNED CONSTITUENT 1-21-25</p> <p>VOTE: NO ON THIS BILL – NO ON SAFETY CLAUSE</p> <p>Folks: We have been around this pole over and over. Not only have you attempted, once again to define dangerous weapons, parts, operations, and who, what, when, where, you have constantly ignored the Second Amendment, Our Rights as citizens of a constitutional representative republic,; and you are using laws to literally disarm the legal gun owners in America. Often, you have even erroneously labeled, named, or described operation and parts of weapons.</p> <p>What is further disturbing to me is that you are constantly over-using the safety clause in an attempt to further remove the citizens rights to even vote on the changes you are slapping in like peanut butter on a sandwich! Fast and Sloppy!</p> <p>I am very sad to see you play this game over and over, and I truly feel you are being very irresponsible with our rights. This does not need to be designated an emergency, thereby bypassing ballot options.</p> <p>It is my sincere hope that all of the numerous bills that have been put forth with bad intentions are all legally challenged and removed from the books, and our lives.</p>
<p>Kathy Rogers Against themselves</p>	<p>Letter to Colorado Senate Committee Regarding SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices</p> <p>Dear Members of the SENATE State, Veterans &amp; Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding SB25-003, which proposes a comprehensive ban on semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices. This bill, if passed, would significantly impact the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens in Colorado.</p> <p>SB25-003 is an extreme measure that targets any semiautomatic rifle or shotgun capable of accepting a detachable magazine, as well as semiautomatic pistols that operate with a gas-reloading system and are capable of accepting a detachable magazine. Moreover, due to the bill's ambiguous language, particularly regarding pistols, it could potentially ban far more than just gas-operated platforms. This</p>

	<p>creates uncertainty and places undue burden on responsible gun owners who may inadvertently fall foul of the law.</p> <p>Another critical concern is the authority granted to the Colorado Attorney General to further define and interpret the language of the bill. This could lead to even broader interpretations and further restrictions beyond the current scope of SB25-003.</p> <p>Included in the bill is a vague and overly broad definition of "rapid-fire devices," classifying them as "dangerous weapons." This classification would ban bump stocks and any device capable of increasing the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm. Again, this lack of specificity could result in unintended consequences and a sweeping ban that eliminates access to most modern semiautomatic weapons for ordinary civilians.</p> <p>Make no mistake, SB25-003 is a far-reaching ban that would severely curtail the rights of everyday Coloradans by prohibiting the sale, purchase, transfer, and manufacture of these firearms, with law enforcement being the only exception. It is crucial to recognize the potential implications and unintended consequences of such a broad and restrictive measure.</p> <p>I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the provisions of SB25-003 and seek alternative solutions that address public safety concerns without infringing upon the rights of responsible gun owners. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kathy A Rogers          10660 Sunnyside Cir          Salida, CO 81201          kar@reagan.com          719-207-2478</p>
<p>Mikhail Kabakov          Against          themself</p>	<p>I'm assuming your intent with this bill is to increase safety, but I've personally experienced plentiful evidence that areas with restrictive gun laws are actually LESS safe, than areas with abundant legal gun ownership. Here's my experience:</p> <p>Before moving to Colorado in Nov 2022 - I lived in California, which as we all know has some of the most restrictive gun laws in the United States. And - it was a state with plentiful crime - things would get stolen from the community garage, and from my personal balcony, on several occasions. There was even one attempt to enter my apartment. Also, I'd be in bed with a window cracked open in the evening - and hear gunshots within a couple mile radius from my house - sometimes several times a week. Also, as a pilot I heard a med-evac helicopter pilot inform Santa Monica</p>

	<p>control tower that they are "picking up a person from Venice Pier with a gunshot wound to the chest".</p> <p>So, all of California's gun restrictions - did nothing to prevent any of that.</p> <p>Now, I won't compare L.A. with gun-owning towns of a population so small that might be a significant factor in reducing crime.</p> <p>But, I now live in Colorado Springs - mid-size city of over half a million. Not a small town. Yet for a number of reasons - gun ownership is abundant throughout the city. And what about crime? Well - it certainly feels like a much safer place to be! Much more so than L.A., San Jose, San Francisco, or even San Diego - all cities where citizens are pretty much denied the ability to legally carry, and severely restricted to even own at home, many otherwise popular firearm models.</p> <p>Denver already looks too much like L.A. Please don't push state-wide legislation which makes Colorado more like California! There's a reason people started fleeing CA despite plenty of appealing factors there.</p> <p>More gun ownership among the population means more Freedom and ALSO - more Safety!</p> <p>Criminalizing gun ownership, carry, target practice etc - means that only criminals continue to do it, and they will use guns (shoot or merely threaten) against citizens deprived of a significant instrument to ensure their safety and prosperity.</p> <p>This bill is about banning 'rapid-firing' weapons. Well, full-auto weapons are already banned, yet criminals still use them on occasion. And if this bill would pass - defending against a criminal with a 'rapid-firing' semi-auto (or a full-auto conversion - criminals don't care that those have been illegal for decades!), while only having a bolt action, or other slow-firing weapon - puts the defender at a huge disadvantage. It's also an obvious step towards further gun restrictions.</p> <p>Also, restricting weapon ownership among civilians is a step towards enabling governmental tyranny - as demonstrated by most dictators throughout the world history, including very recent and currently ongoing history. An armed and Free citizenry is one of the most basic guarantees that the American society remains prosperous.</p> <p>Hence I urge every Freedom-loving American to vote again this bill.</p> <p>P.S. it's also un-constitutional, but I prefer to appeal to reasoning based on first principles, rather than leverage existing law.</p>
<p>Steven Medberry Against himself</p>	<p>Testimony Against SB25-003</p> <p>Distinguished Members of the Committee,</p>

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB25-003, which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of firearms that are in common use by Colorado residents. While I understand the intent of this bill in addressing public safety concerns, the proposed measures are deeply flawed and pose significant threats to the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens.

First and foremost, SB25-003 infringes upon the constitutional rights of responsible firearm owners. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. This bill, by imposing draconian restrictions on semiautomatic firearms, undermines this fundamental right and sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of individual liberties. Each year, responsible gun owners in our state find themselves defending their personal liberties from their own elected representatives, all of whom swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and are failing to do so by supporting measures like SB25-003. Colorado continues to face increasingly extreme proposed bans on our constitutional rights each year, penalizing responsible gun owners and failing to reduce crime and violence in our communities.

SB25-003 fails to recognize the legitimate uses of semiautomatic firearms, such as hunting, sport shooting, and personal defense. Semiautomatic firearms are in common use by law-abiding citizens for these lawful activities. Restricting access to these firearms does not address the root causes of gun violence, but rather penalizes responsible gun owners who adhere to the law.

Instead of imposing sweeping bans, I urge the committee to consider alternative solutions that address the core issues of gun violence. These could include improving mental health services and promoting responsible gun ownership through education and training programs. By focusing on these targeted measures, we can achieve meaningful progress in reducing gun violence without infringing on the rights of lawful citizens.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to vote against SB25-003. The proposed bill's broad and restrictive measures are not the solution to reducing gun violence. We must seek balanced and effective approaches that respect the rights of responsible firearm owners while addressing public safety concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Medberry

<p>Erik Knowles Against themselves</p>	<p>I'm writing to urge you to vote against SB25-003. Contra Heller, this bill clearly attempts to ban weapons that are in common use -- the fact that it only bans the sale, not the possession of such firearms is clearly an attempt to dodge the intent of the Supreme Court's ruling, and will force Colorado taxpayers into an expensive and ultimately futile court defense.</p> <p>Further more, the bill's supporters have offered no statistics showing the supposedly "more dangerous" weapons addressed by the bill are used disproportionately to commit crimes. In other words, this bill does not address a specific problem, it's simply another gun grab promoted by out of state interests.</p>
<p>Darren Foster Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senators Sullivan and Gonzales, and Representatives Boesenecker and Froelich,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, titled "Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices," which seeks to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms in Colorado. As a lifelong resident, I am deeply concerned about the implications this bill has on our constitutional rights and public safety.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. This right has been upheld by the Supreme Court in cases such as District of Columbia v. Heller, which affirmed that individuals have the right to possess firearms unconnected with service in a militia for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home.</p> <p>SB 25-003 aims to ban semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazines, as well as gas-operated semiautomatic handguns with detachable magazines. These types of firearms are commonly owned by law-abiding citizens for purposes including self-defense, hunting, and recreational shooting. This design of firearm has existed for well over 100 years. Prohibiting their sale and transfer infringes upon the rights of responsible gun owners and does little to address the root causes of gun violence.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is crucial to address a key issue with this bill: the firearms permitted under its restrictions simply do not exist in any practical form. You know this, and we know you know this. The bill permits firearms with permanently fixed magazines that cannot accept more than fifteen rounds, but such designs are nonexistent in the current market. By default, this proposal would outlaw nearly all semiautomatic firearms, effectively creating a blanket ban under the guise of regulation. This overreach is unconstitutional, impractical, and, most of all, creates a new hazard associated with firearms even with a desire to have them exist. When it comes to owning a firearm, the first step in clearing a firearm, fixing a malfunction, or addressing a jam is to remove the mechanism providing the next live round—commonly known as the magazine. The safety hazards associated with being unable</p>

	<p>to remove live ammunition from a firearm quickly and confidently are, to put it lightly, terrifying. In the hands of a novice, or even a well-practiced firearm operator, a malfunction or jam under such circumstances may leave the operator with no safe recourse other than unsafely discharging the firearm. This not only increases the risk of accidental injury or death but also underscores the impracticality of enforcing such restrictions without severely compromising basic firearm safety protocols. By forcing the existence of firearms with permanently fixed magazines, this legislation prioritizes an unrealistic regulatory ideal over fundamental safety practices, creating unnecessary dangers for law-abiding gun owners.</p> <p>It is also essential to point out that Coloradans did not elect or support a slate of legislators with the expectation that they would pursue policies aimed at stripping away the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. Legislation like this undermines public trust and does not reflect the priorities of the majority of your constituents.</p> <p>It is important to recognize that focusing on restricting specific types of firearms does not address the underlying issues contributing to violence in our communities. Efforts should instead be directed toward improving mental health services, enhancing background check systems, and enforcing existing laws that target criminal misuse of firearms.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the constitutional implications and potential unintended consequences of SB 25-003. Please oppose this bill and work towards solutions that uphold the rights of law-abiding citizens while effectively addressing the factors that contribute to violence in our society.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
<p>LYNN SCHWANKL Against themselves</p>	<p>As a fellow Coloradan, I urge you to please OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003 in your committee hearing on January 28th.</p> <p>Senate Bill 25-003 bans so-called "specified semiautomatic firearms," which are defined in the bill as "...a semiautomatic rifle or semiautomatic shotgun with a detachable magazine or a gas-operated semiautomatic handgun with a detachable magazine." Semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines have existed for well over a century, and these platforms certainly fit the definition of "in common use" set forth by the District of Columbia V. Heller decision.</p> <p>This bill unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners, and does nothing to combat or prevent violent crime in our state.</p> <p>Again, I urge you to please OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003. Thank you for all that you do for our state.</p> <p>Furthermore:</p>

I'm not sure how to state my opposition to this bill that would accurately and succinctly, and politely express how misguided and destructive it will be - considering the collateral damage it will cause.

First, some family history. I was raised in a "dyed in the wool" republican family in northern Minnesota, where, before leaving home for college and for years after on visits, likely one in four meals included wild game of some sort - fish from Rainy River & Rainy Lake, and partridge, ducks, rabbits & venison. We were a hunting family and raised with the presence of firearms, and took firearms safety courses, but most of all, it was a celebrated family tradition that resulted in a huge appreciation and respect for firearms AND the game we gathered.

With that said, my first gun purchase at 14 years old, from Riley's Sporting Goods, was a Ruger Mark IV, 22 LR pistol. It's in my gun safe as I write.

Guess what? It's a semi-automatic with a detachable magazine. I've had this pistol for almost 63 years. It has NEVER injured anyone, has never been pointed at anyone in anger, aggression or otherwise.

Now, let's talk about my Dad's deer-hunting rifle, that I inherited when he passed - almost 29 years ago. It is a semi-automatic, Remington Model 742, with, guess what, a detachable magazine. Again, used for hunting and has NEVER been used in any other capacity than providing food for our family.

This law is beyond unacceptable in that it's a feel-good attempt at solving the biggest problem we have as a society, and that is, we're doing a miserable job dealing with mental illness.

Look at the recent multi-death-causing incidents where a vehicle was used to mow down groups of victims. Where's the law to ban motor vehicles?

Any death of an innocent person by a firearm is tragic. However, where's the law to ban knives - as used in the recent murder in Denver. Get the point? There will always be method to inflict injury and death when the person or persons are insanely motivated.

I had a conversation recently with an employee of a gun shop who said 40% of their revenue was from guns that your bill will ban. These guns are ALL sold to law-abiding, background-checked customers. Your bill will now criminalize thousands in this state.

The gun-related businesses will fail, putting 1000's out of work - all, law-abiding, family members - many of whom will be forced to look for jobs outside of their skill sets and more frequently than not, at much lower wages.

	<p>Now, let's talk about who WILL have detachable magazine guns. It's obvious.</p> <p>People like me who are grandfathered in and criminals, because the black market for these guns will create a huge revenue source for what can no longer be purchased legally, again, because of this law.</p> <p>I, respectfully, request you to do "the right thing" and pull this bill, before it's misguided "feel good" attempt at decreasing criminal activity, results in criminals outgunning everyone else.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lynn R. Schwankl          3555 Sunridge Terrace Dr.          Castle Rock, CO 80109</p>
<p>Anthony Daiss          Against          himself</p>	<p>Please take into consideration the far reaching and negative impact that this bill will have on Colorado residents. Removing the ability for citizens to protect themselves against criminals who will not abide by the law is a problem. This law will take away firearms from law abiding and impede them from protecting their families from criminals who wish to harm them. The police do a great job but can only do so much, so it is up to responsible gun owners to protect themselves with reasonable firearms, and this bill will remove their ability to obtain reasonable firearms. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Donald Downum          Against          himself</p>	<p>I am a decorated combat veteran of the U.S. Army. I find this proposed ban on semi-automatic firearms distasteful and UN-constitutional. It would be far better to imprison those who commit crimes than to punish those of us who are law abiding productive citizens of the United States of America and Colorado.</p> <p>In conclusion this bill should be defeated and not re- introduced in any form!</p> <p>SFC Donald V Downum</p> <p>US Army (RET)</p>

<p>Daniel Eddy</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Respected members of the Senate State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs Committee:</p> <p>As an honorably discharged veteran, a member of law enforcement, and a concerned father and citizen, I stand firmly against Senate Bill 25-003. As with most "gun" laws, it seeks only to disarm law abiding individuals. Criminals will always find a way to inflict harm. I conceal-carry to protect my family, and yours. Please stop attacking our freedoms that were put in place by men who had humility and vision when drafting our constitution, something you all have sworn to protect.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Daniel</p>
<p>Dayton Myers</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>My right to keep and bear arms is very important to me and my family. This law only protects criminals and not law abiding citizens. We need to find another way to protect society other than an all out ban on sporting and self defense firearms. Criminals are going to get illegal guns, ammo, and magazines no matter what the law is. Harsher penalties, such as the death penalty might be a start to get there attention. I hope that something different can be worked out, Senate Bill 25-003 is bad for all of Colorado, it will cost jobs and close businesses. Most deer and elk hunting rifles will be a thing of the past. Self defense will be a new challenge. More guns will be left loaded because you can't remove the magazine. Please do not vote for this bill, it is not good for Colorado.</p>
<p>Laura Barkus</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I'm against SB25-003 for multiple reasons. I'll cut tight to the chase:</p> <p>All firearm related instances nationally, dropped from 46.8k in 2023 to 18.6k in 2024 per FBI crime statistics.</p> <p>Just last year alone, there were 1,145,026 drug violations and 76,000+ rape instances. These FAR exceed any firearm offenses. But, its not about that is it? It's about forcing responsible gun owners into forfeiting our 2nd Amendment right and controlling all guns. We all know that banning removable magazines is nearly all guns. Please don't insult us by sugar coating the bill with just "removable magazines". If guns were THAT dangerous, why is it that law enforcement can keep theirs? If a criminal wants to commit a crime, do you honestly think they won't be able access a gun illegally if they wanted? If they don't consider our most recent vehicular crimes? DARRELL BROOKS, Waukesha, WI, SHAMSUD DIN JABBAR, New Orleans, LA, Las Vegas, Houston, TX (2018), Times Square (2017), all used their vehicles as a method of destruction. Will we outlaw vehicles next? Or take the tires away first?</p> <p>My point is, we ALL can't be held responsible for a tragedy that we have nothing to do with. I'm a female that drives to work at 1AM. I'm required to drive through shady parts of town. I want to be able to protect myself if confronted. No, call the cops and wait for back up that may or may not reach me in time. This bill will NOT save lives. It'll cause more bloodshed by the people who obtain weapons illegally. How are we supposed to protect ourselves (or others) from that?!</p> <p>Let's start holding people ACCOUNTABLE for their crimes first. Maybe that will be a better deterrent against making horrible choices.</p>

<p>Abigail McCart For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Abigail McCart. I am a resident of Littleton, CO. I am testifying on behalf of myself. I am writing to share my support for Senate Bill 25-003.</p> <p>As the mother of a two-year-old, one of my worst fears is losing my child to a mass shooting. SB25-003 is a step in the right direction in that it would make any potential mass shootings less lethal. The existing law banning high-capacity magazines is not enough, as one can easily travel to a neighboring state to legally purchase said magazine, then return to our state and attach them to one's firearms. One need only look at the tragic shooting at King Soopers in Boulder in 2021 or the ClubQ shooting in Colorado Springs in 2022. In both circumstances, the perpetrators used high-capacity magazines, which are illegal in Colorado, to senselessly end the lives of so many. Clearly what we have now is not working.</p> <p>Each of us is a full human being with a story. Every person whose life was cut short by a mass shooting was a full human being with a story. I do not want my child, myself, or anyone in the state of Colorado to lose our lives and our stories to gun violence, to become simply another statistic. This bill will help all of us be a bit safer. I urge you to vote YES on Senate Bill 25-003.</p> <p>Thank you, Abigail McCart</p>
<p>John Dorcey Against themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to SB 25-003 for the following reasons:</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, which states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," has long been a subject of intense debate, particularly regarding modern weaponry like semi-automatic firearms. This short paper argues in favor of the constitutional right to own semi-automatic firearms, examining historical context, legal precedents, technological evolution, and practical implications in contemporary society.</p> <p>To understand the Second Amendment's application to semi-automatic firearms, one must consider the historical context at the time of its drafting. The Founders, drawing from experiences under British rule, where disarmament was used as a control mechanism, envisioned an armed populace as a safeguard against tyranny. The muskets and rifles of the late 18th century were the cutting-edge technology of their time, akin to semi-automatic firearms today in terms of being the most advanced personal defensive weaponry available.</p> <p>The argument that the Founding Fathers could not have foreseen semi-automatic weapons, thus excluding them from Second Amendment protections, is flawed. The amendment's language speaks to "arms," not specifying types or technologies, suggesting an intent to protect the right to bear arms as technology advances (source: The Founders' Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms by Stephen P. Halbrook, 2008).</p>

	<p>The legal landscape has evolved to affirm the individual right to bear arms, including semi-automatic firearms. In <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> (2008), the Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home. Although <i>Heller</i> did not directly address semi-automatics, Justice Scalia's opinion emphasized that the term "arms" was understood by the Founders to include any weapon that a person would keep for "military efficiency," which in the modern context includes semi-automatics (<i>Heller</i>, 2008).</p> <p>Further, <i>McDonald v. City of Chicago</i> (2010) extended the <i>Heller</i> ruling to apply to state and local governments, reinforcing that the right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty. These decisions set a precedent that modern firearms technology, including semi-automatic weapons, falls under the Second Amendment's umbrella.</p> <p>Firearms technology has advanced significantly since the 18th century, but the purpose of the Second Amendment remains relevant: to ensure citizens can defend themselves, their property, and the state. Semi-automatic firearms (like the AR-15 modern sporting rifle), which fire one bullet per trigger pull but automatically chamber the next round, are not inherently different in function from the repeating arms of the late 19th century, like the Henry or Winchester rifles, which were also semi-automatic in their operation.</p> <p>The argument against semi-automatic firearms often centers on their capacity for rapid fire compared to older muskets. However, this overlooks the fact that the essence of the Second Amendment is to provide effective self-defense and deter potential tyranny, which semi-automatic firearms do by offering greater accuracy and reliability than previous firearms technologies.</p> <p>Practical Implications:</p> <p>Self-Defense: Semi-automatic pistols and rifles are commonly used for personal defense due to their reliability, ease of use, and capacity. Criminals do not adhere to firearm bans; thus, law-abiding citizens should not be disadvantaged by having access only to less effective weapons.</p> <p>Sport and Hunting: Millions of Americans engage in target shooting, competitive shooting sports, and hunting, where semi-automatic firearms are often preferred for their efficiency and versatility. These activities promote responsible gun ownership and safety.</p>
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	<p>Deterrence Against Tyranny:</p> <p>The concept of an armed citizenry as a bulwark against potential governmental overreach, remains a core justification for the Second Amendment. Semi-automatic firearms, being more effective than single-shot weapons, better serve this deterrent purpose.</p> <p>The tradition of firearm ownership in America includes adapting to new technologies, maintaining the cultural significance of gun ownership, which is intertwined with notions of liberty and independence.</p> <p>Semi-automatic AR-15 type rifles are the most popular owned rifle by civilians in the United states (estimates are around 30 million legally owned).</p> <p>Opponents of semi-automatic firearms ownership often cite concerns about public safety, mass shootings, and accidental discharges. However, these issues are better addressed through education, existing background checks, and responsible ownership rather than broad prohibitions. Moreover, statistics on gun violence often fail to differentiate between legally owned semi-automatic firearms used in self-defense or sport versus those employed in criminal activities, which might not be legally owned or used.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The right to own semi-automatic firearms (like the modern sporting rifle AR-15) under the Second Amendment is not only legally supported but philosophically consistent with the original intent of the Founders—to ensure a free society where citizens can protect themselves and their rights. This right is crucial for maintaining the balance of power, promoting personal safety, and preserving a cultural heritage of firearms ownership in America.</p> <p>Any restriction on the type of arms one can own must be carefully scrutinized to avoid infringing on constitutional rights. The debate should not be about banning semi-automatic firearms but about fostering a society where these weapons are owned and used responsibly. In this light, the Second Amendment continues to be a vital part of the American constitutional framework, safeguarding both individual liberties and the collective security of the nation.</p>
<p>Kevin Roush Against themselves</p>	<p>Against SB25-003</p> <p>To all concerned. I respectfully disagree with this bill in its entirety. It will have no impact on the criminal use of firearms in any way whatsoever.</p>

	<p>As a law abiding collector of firearms of all types I am so tired of being blamed for the actions of insane criminals.</p> <p>This bill outlaws hunting, sporting, collectible, and self defense firearms. It is just so badly written. It leaves so many things undefined. I'm asking as a hard working tax paying citizen. Please vote against this bill.</p> <p>Nobody wants gun violence. Least of all gun owners. Every time this happens we get the blame. The gun isn't the problem, it never was. The proof? Literally thousands of gun control laws on the books with little to no effect on criminal behavior.</p> <p>Instead, punish the people who enabled criminals to acquire guns. Punish the parents of these young maniacal shooters who see the problem for years yet say nothing. Punish the law enforcement agencies who invariably say "they were on our radar" yet don't act. There has to be a better way.</p> <p>I don't understand the logic that says if 10,000 gun laws haven't worked then adding this one will magically solve everything. It won't, people who are willing to kill don't care at all.</p> <p>I know your time is valuable and I appreciate being able to testify.</p> <p>Respectfully yours,</p> <p>Kevin Roush</p> <p>roushkevin@hotmail.com</p> <p>(303) 246-2519</p>
<p>Michael Andersen Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a straight ticket democrat voter. However, if democrats continue to try and pass gun laws that do nothing more than punish lawful gun owners, then I am forced to leave the party completely. You are trying to pass gun laws that do nothing to help fix problems and have zero reasonable studies supporting them. Stop the attack on our constitutional rights.</p>
<p>Russell Benson Against themselves</p>	<p>I do not think banning any firearm with a magazine is constitutional.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Russell Bensin</p>
<p>Judith Kieca Against themselves</p>	<p>I am an active 80 year old woman, who enjoys hiking in the wilderness near Cedaredge CO. I recently joined A GIRL AND A GUN group, to become more adept with my 9 MM handgun. I feel safer both at home and on my hikes with my gun nearby.</p> <p>I feel this Bill infringes on my Constitutional rights.</p> <p>Please do not let this Bill proceed.</p>

	Judith Kieca
<p>Valdamar Archuleta Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chairman Weissman and members of the State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs committee, thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you concerning Senate Bill 25-003.</p> <p>My name is Valdamar Archuleta, and I'm representing myself.</p> <p>I'm writing to encourage you NOT to pass this piece of legislation. I understand the good intentions behind this bill that limits ownership of firearms; however, restricting personal protection is not the solution. This ban on firearms is so broad that it will effectively take away virtually all the firearms people use for self-defense, leaving us defenseless.</p> <p>Legislators aim to help and protect the vulnerable, but this legislation will actually strip protections away from those very people. Criminals will not be affected; only law-abiding citizens will bear the consequences.</p> <p>I'm not a fan of identity politics, and I don't claim to be a vulnerable person, but I know some may be interested in who I am. The communities I'm part of are often assumed not to care about our right to bare arms, but I'm telling you, we do. I'm a Native American gay Latino and my right to personal protection is very important to me.</p> <p>There have been times when living alone that knowing I have a firearm gives me a sense of security. I own a fire extinguisher, hoping I never have to use it, and I feel the same way about my firearm. I'm a law-abiding, responsible gun owner, and this bill would make it illegal for me to obtain any firearm I currently own. I have a concealed carry permit, and even the small firearm I use for personal protection would fall under the broad description of firearms banned by this bill.</p> <p>I appreciate your desire to make Colorado and its citizens safer, but this legislation is not the way to achieve that. First, it's unconstitutional and will be struck down, making it a significant waste of time and resources. Second, it will only impact the law-abiding citizens of Colorado, not the criminals; therefore, it won't reduce crime or enhance our safety.</p> <p>I am asking that you NOT pass Senate Bill 25-003.</p> <p>Thank You.</p>

<p>Kerri Copper Against themselves</p>	<p>Please consider,, the importance, and constitutionality, of law abiding citizens to possess firearms,, for self-defense, yes, but also for recreation, as with AGirl &amp; AGun organization, for security in the wild, while hiking, for training our out-of-state grandchildren to be responsible gun-owners, as is their right, your right and mine. Do you think criminals will disappear if you pass this bill?!?!? Please vote NO on this bill.</p>
<p>Carolyn Shepherd For themselves</p>	<p>Chairman Weissman and members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Carolyn Shepherd and I am writing in support of SB25-003. I am a retired doctor but I spent 30 years working in Colorado caring for low income and uninsured families. Before Colorado I worked in the Bronx in NYC and in Chicago at Cook County Hospital. In all these places my work has included caring for patients with gun related life-changing often incapacitating injuries and families devastated by gun violence. As physicians, our entire job is to relieve suffering, either by treating it or preventing it.</p> <p>In 1999, the year of the Columbine shooting, both of my children were in high school and knew sports friends who attended Columbine. In 2021 I went to my neighborhood King Soopers grocery store to buy a half gallon of milk less than one hour before the shooter arrived.</p> <p>My husband is from a family of gun owners, and in the fall each year he and family members would hunt deer and elk in the northwest corner of the state, near their family home in Meeker. They allowed hunters to use their property for decades. There is no tradition or sport that requires one to shoot more than 10 of anything. Not tin cans, not practice targets, not deer, not elk, not coyotes.</p> <p>As gun owners, I want you to know that we support your voting for SB 25-003 to enforce existing laws and prevent more tragedy. High-capacity magazines and rapid-fire weapons are military-style weapons designed for high lethality, not for sport or hunting of food. In the non-military public these weapons are used to kill large numbers of classmates, theater goers, concert attendees and my neighbors and friends in the grocery store buying a half gallon of milk.</p>
<p>Camron Espinoza Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado Senate,</p> <p>As a law enforcement officer in this state, I have seen firsthand how well-intentioned laws can sometimes negatively impact law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal behavior. The proposed assault weapons ban is an example of such legislation.</p> <p>The reality is that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. A ban on specific firearms will not stop individuals intent on committing violence. Data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program shows that most firearm-related homicides are committed with handguns, not the so-called "assault weapons" targeted by this bill. These firearms, while occasionally used in crimes, represent a statistically insignificant portion of overall gun violence.</p>

	<p>Rather than restricting the rights of responsible gun owners, we should focus on addressing the root causes of violent crime. Studies consistently show that a small percentage of offenders commit a disproportionate share of violent acts. By increasing penalties for repeat offenders who commit crimes with firearms, we can hold those individuals accountable while preserving the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>In law enforcement, we often say that 5% of the population is responsible for 95% of the crime. This bill takes the opposite approach, placing unnecessary restrictions on the 95% of law-abiding citizens in an attempt to address the actions of the small minority responsible for violence. Resources spent enforcing this ban would be better used to hold repeat offenders accountable and implement proven crime prevention strategies.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the unintended consequences of this legislation. Penalizing law-abiding firearm owners, collectors, and competitive shooters will do little to reduce crime. Instead, we should prioritize targeted, effective solutions that address the real drivers of violence without infringing on constitutional rights.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from my professional experience.</p> <p>Sincerely, Camron Espinoza</p>
<p>Ingrid Moore For themselves</p>	<p>Re: SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms &amp; Rapid-Fire Devices</p> <p>Please vote to pass this bill out of committee to have a full hearing before the Senate!</p> <p>This is an important bill.</p> <p>Are we going to DO something about improving gun safety or NOT?</p> <p>Any arguments that this is unconstitutional, violates the 2nd Amendment, or deprives "law-abiding" gun owners of rights, is a shoddy argument.</p> <p>Please vote YES!</p>

<p>Benjamin Woodland Against themselves</p>	<p>I, Benjamin Michael Woodland, do solemnly testify the obvious, namely, that Senate Bill 25-003 is a direct violation of the mandate "Shall Not Be Infringed," and a blatant attack on the individual freedom of the Citizens of the State of Colorado.</p>
<p>Jake Ryan Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is a direct violation of the second amendment rights of Colorado residents</p>
<p>JUSTIN BARBER Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello. I would like to respectfully oppose this bill. I see it as a massive overstep on myself and my fellow Coloradians constitutional rights. While there is always room for improvement in the safety of our society it should not come at the cost of putting a boot on the neck of liberty. Instead we should be focusing on mental health, harsher sentences for violent offenders. This will do nothing but hurt peaceable people such as myself. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Jeff Bott Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a former Marine infantryman, as well as a current Range Safety Officer.</p> <p>I'm writing in regards to SB 25-003. This bill has been advertised in a very misleading way. It not only infringes on our rights and makes the majority of defensive firearms less effective, but it makes firearms more dangerous to handle for beginners, as well as experienced shooters in terms of being unable to easily remove the source of ammunition from the firearm.</p> <p>This causes safety issues on the range, for storage at home, clearing malfunctions, cleaning, teaching new gun owners, and any other situation where one would want to remove ammunition from their firearm.</p> <p>This bill is also essentially saying "we won't do anything to address the root cause of mass shootings, or anything more to actually stop them, but we will make sure that those who have firearms for legal and moral purposes only have 15 rounds to defend themselves".</p> <p>Criminals don't care about the laws you pass. Since some of you have cited statistics that include gang shootings in the same statistics as school shootings- do you really think that someone who's already using a Glock switch will suddenly make sure their magazine is no longer removable? Or will they continue to purchase their guns on the street? Do you think a school shooter will avoid finding a way to modify their</p>

	<p>tools of choice to accomplish what they want, or do they want to make sure they use a Colorado compliant weapon in the 30 minute rampage before their death?</p> <p>I strongly urge you to not only rethink this bill, but your entire approach to solving the issues at hand.</p> <p>Bans and restrictions have proven time and time again to be ineffective, if not causing the opposite of their intended effect.</p> <p>This is a topic I could discuss at length, but I know that there are many, many others who will be testifying as well.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, and please listen to the people you represent.</p>
<p>Steve VOORHORST Against themselves</p>	<p>Totally against this bill. Infringes on the second amendment.</p>
<p>Gregory Richards Against themselves</p>	<p>Gun control won't fix the issues with violence, and you are under an oath to protect and sustain the United State constitution. What about "shall not be infringed" don't you understand? The second amendment right cannot be changed as King men and woman see fit. The people are sovereign and the right to keep a military style guns is for a last line of defense against tyrannical government and domestic upheaval. I would appreciate a real fix to crime like mandatory sentencing and funding the police. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Kris Simons Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is the byproduct of a long standing emotional reaction by Tom Sullivan and anti gun legislation. Having been personally in a situation at one point in my life where a gun saved mine, I do not support this bill personally or as a citizen of this state. Please do not vote for this bill. It erodes our freedoms even further in a world where violence and crime only seem to be getting worse.</p>
<p>Thomas Belue Against themselves</p>	<p>As a United States Marine Corps Veteran and a retired Law Enforcement Officer with over 30 years of service, I am appalled at the attempt of the Colorado legislator to remove the rights and freedoms of the citizens of this state.</p> <p>This bill will only affect the law-abiding citizens of Colorado, not the criminals. It is unconceivable to me that this fact is not blatantly obvious. I have enforced law for over 30 years, and it is not your law-abiding constituents that are using weapons against innocent people, it is the criminal. They do not care about the law or repercussions of breaking the law, the repercussions are only feared by lawful peoples.</p> <p>Please consider the effects of this bill on the lawful men and women of this state, who only desire to protect and defend themselves from harm and attack. As a Law</p>

	<p>Enforcement Officer, I know as well as you, we are predominantly a responsive arm, we are typically unable to prevent or stop violence against the citizenry. Unfortunately, it is up to most to defend themselves or wait for Law Enforcement to arrive, and much too often it is too late.</p> <p>For the protection and safety of your Constituents and our fellow Coloradans, vote NO on SB25-003.</p> <p>Sincerely, Thomas S Belue</p> <p>My credentials are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United States Marine Corps Veteran</li> <li>• Retired Law Enforcement Commander with 32 years of experience, with over 26 years in field operations.</li> <li>• Field force (Riot Team) platoon commander.</li> <li>• Member of the Dignitary Protection team. Provided armed overwatch, vehicle escorts and security details for dignitaries to include Presidents, Vice Presidents, First Ladies, Senators, Governors and other high ranking State and Federal Officials.</li> <li>• Developed and Managed security threat assessments and protocols for Schools and other Government Entities, ensuring the safety of over 80k individuals in over 100 locations.</li> <li>• Internationally certified Firearms Instructor: Pistol, Rifle, In home defense.</li> </ul>
<p>Eric Westhafer Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Let me get right to it.</p> <p>What you are trying to do with the 2025 assault weapons ban is terribly unconstitutional. You have tried this several times even though the people have told you NO!!</p> <p>This bill will disproportionately hurt women, is a blatant violation of the 2nd, is draconian, communist, and something that Adolf Hitler would do.</p> <p>If, you persist, I will make it my mission to report you to GOA, FPC, NRA, Second Amendment Foundation, NAGR, etc until they drag your ass into court.</p>

	<p>These terrible laws and policies that continually spit in the face of WE THE PEOPLE are why good people have moved out of Denver and have made it a shitty 3rd world city. Remember the Venezuelan gang in Aurora CO that turned us into front page news for Trump’s campaign?</p> <p>I expect far better from my elected officials. I will be praying for all of you.</p>
<p>Ethan Bilbo Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill makes no sense and does not actually make Colorado a safer place.</p> <p>This bill intends to ban all normal firearms. I utilize these firearms on a routine basis for self defense and sport.</p> <p>For example, I enjoy the Colorado wilderness as much as possible. Being in the back country poses several unique challenges that require individuals to possess a firearm as described in the bill. The existence of wolves, bears, mountain lions and other dangerous animals pose hikers, campers, fishermen, and hunters great danger without proper protection using weapons with detachable magazines.</p> <p>Moreover, these types of animals are move fast, some move in packs, and cannot be engaged with a bolt action rifle or revolver. In the heat of the moment, and trying to react to these animals if a person is in danger, they are likely to miss and or need access to quickly reload the weapon to resolve the threat and protect their life, and those around them.</p> <p>This bill is unconstitutional and will impede Coloradans from exercising their Second Amendment right. If this bill passes it is likely to go to the US Supreme Court and be overturned. This process is costly and will just waste more tax payer dollars and advocates money.</p> <p>If your intent is to make Colorado a safer place, this bill will have the opposite effect. I implore you to vote no on this bill and any future bills with similar language.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>-Ethan Bilbo</p>
<p>Natalie Sivak For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing as a Denver resident, constituent, parent and physician, in support of SB25-003. In my work as a Diagnostic Radiologist, I interpret medical imaging. As such, I have witnessed the harmful effects of gun violence and gun accidents on the human body. I have seen firsthand how bullets shatter vertebrae, sever the spinal cord, lacerate the spleen and liver, damage nerves, perforate bowel and cause</p>

	<p>serious physical trauma, not to mention the emotional and psychological trauma of being in a life-threatening situation. Gun violence and the sequelae of gun accidents cause a significant burden on our health care system, not to mention the life changing negative effects of a gunshot wound, the physical pain and disability these bring, if a person survives the injury.</p> <p>Additionally, I am a mom of four school aged children, one of whom currently attends East high school, (although she was not there on the day of the shooting incident in 2023). As a parent, each day I pray for the safety of my children as they go off to school, and I am grateful when we can all sit together over the dinner table chatting about their day, knowing that they are all safe and well, knowing that some parents do not have that luxury.</p> <p>For these reasons, I enthusiastically support SB25-003, which has the potential to significantly reduce the number of victims of gun violence in Colorado. This bill will fully implement and enforce Colorado’s existing high-capacity magazine prohibition. Colorado should pass this bill to prohibit the purchase and sale of all rapid fire conversion devices and prohibit the manufacture and sale of the most dangerous weapons — specified semi-automatic, military-style firearms that can accept high-capacity magazines.</p>
<p>Jerod Lee Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill only negatively effects the 2A rights and would only impact law abiding citizens. I am against this legislation.</p> <p>Jerod Lee</p>
<p>Jacob Archuleta Against themselves</p>	<p>When I decided to testify on this bill I'll admit I didn't exactly know what I wanted to say. I considered simply submitting some documents regarding things like how anti-gun groups will cite fraudulent data or fudge definitions to make thing seem a lot more dire than they are or how states with gun laws more draconian than ours are as of this hearing have experienced no reduction in actual violence and in fact they've increased as disparities in things like economic stability or mental health have grown. I decided not to as it is my genuine hope and expectation that others testifying in person, online, or through similar uploaded testimony will provide those numbers and statistics.</p> <p>Rather I just want to provide this testimony to say that I'm tired. I have been a registered Democrat since the 2018 midterms. I could've voted on the 2016 election but at the time I was fresh out of high school and awash in that very sophomoric idea of "well what does it matter what I say or do, it'll all come out the same." I've thankfully grown out of that, thus why I'm sending this testimony at all. Back to the topic at hand, in addition to my registration as a Democrat, I'm also a gun owner. November was rough, wasn't it? Not in Colorado, but on the national stage. Democrats as a whole are on the back foot in a way that I don't think has been seen</p>

in this country for awhile, if ever, for either political party. To reiterate, I'm tired. I'm tired of seeing this Quixotic charge being mounted year in and year out. This year however, in addition to being tired, I'm terrified.

I'm terrified because, well, you watch the news too, right? Each day since the inauguration, I see on the news that things that safeguarded the country are being rolled back, destroyed by Executive Order from the highest office there is. I see people being loaded on to troop transport planes in chains. I see the President squabbling with an allied country over land that has not mattered to the United States until he became interested in it. And in response, are the people I trusted to govern my state challenging anything? Are they trying to safeguard the people that moved to this country, this state, hoping for a better future? No. Are they trying to safeguard the legal infrastructure this state has built for itself against obvious threats? No. Instead, they've chosen to waste time on what I wish I could say was the same ban that gets rolled out every year.

However, I can't say that. This is some of the most extreme legislation I've ever seen. It's like saying that since houses get filled with hazardous gas from the oven sometimes all new oven doors need to be permanently sealed. Anyone with any familiarity with firearms or even a shred of honesty or intelligence will tell you that permanently affixing a magazine inside of a gun wherein the removal of the magazine is required for its regular operation renders the entire system unsafe. because the magazine being removable isn't just required to reload the firearm. It is required to safely clear the weapon in case of malfunction. It's required to safely unload the weapon in any situation. It's required to safely clean the weapon. If you remove any way to safely interact with something, that is a ban. it's a ban because no one will be interested in engineering around your insane standards. Because no one will be willing to be the guinea pig for how to make something live up to those. Whether you have the gumption to call it a ban or not comes down to how honest of a person you are.

I apologize for the digression. Returning to my fears. Do you know what the fastest-growing demographic of gun owners in this country are? They're women. They're racial minorities. They're sexual minorities. 1500 people who tried to seize the seat of government at the start of this decade were just pardoned. All 1500 of these people have a bone to pick with any of the growing groups of gun owners I just mentioned. Thousands more are of the same persuasion, and likely emboldened by the events of the past few days. I do not worry for my own ability to own guns. There are certainly those who have as many as me who have decided that they now have enough. I am instead worried for those people who don't have them yet, who will be preyed upon, who would not have been if they had a gun at the time. Those are people that, like me, put their trust in you to run this state. You are working against their interests, even if that is not understood right now.

At the beginning of my testimony, I said that I have been a registered Democrat for six-and-a-half years. However, citing to myself the sheer incompetence displayed on

	<p>a national level by the party and the bullheadedness required to keep trying for legislation like this in Colorado, I re-registered as an Independent earlier this month. I can no longer abide a party wasting energy on an infringement of rights as I look out the window and see the world crumbling into dust around me.</p> <p>And before anyone writes this off as someone who has never been affected by what a gun can do caterwauling to please themselves, I know what a gun can do. My grandfather took his own life with a pistol around this time seven years ago. His home was close enough to a school that groups like Anytown likely used it to inflate their numbers. I blame the pistol no more than I praise my mother's rototiller for the landscaping work around her house.</p>
Christopher Cooper Against themselves	





























Hello, my name is Richard Koeppel, owner and operator of Frugal Firearms a home based Gunsmith, Firearm manufacture and Firearm transfer service. This bill will effectively put me **OUT** of business for manufacturing, as I will not be able to manufacture the Firearms that are targeted and listed in this bill.

My transfer business will also decrease by 85%, because these are the most commonly used and purchased firearms that the majority of my customers purchase. A lot of my customers simply purchase these semiautomatic rifles and shotguns for their collections and do not even shoot them. It is an investment for them, and this bill will prevent them from doing this.

This bill will also prevent a huge amount of hunters from getting the firearms they want and need to help maintain a healthy animal population in this state.

This bill will actually make the semi-auto firearms that are allowed (with fixed magazine holding 15 rounds or less) a Safety hazard, because it is harder and more cumbersome to unload a firearm with a fixed magazine vs a removable magazine. I predict that a large amount of the owners will simply keep them loaded rather than go through the trouble of unloading them.

I strongly disagree with this bill and it should be stopped in this committee and go no further.

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you to ask that you OPPOSE SB25-003. This is a blatant infringement on both the Colorado and United State's Constitutions' guarantees to the right to bear arms.

At a very high cost to law-abiding citizens, this bill will do virtually NOTHING to reduce firearms crime in Colorado. Criminals do not follow laws, they will simply go to other states to buy the newly restricted firearms, or continue buying them on the black market as criminals always have.

However, the people that actually follow the law will experience severe negative impacts. If this passes I am concerned for future generations and new gun owners who will not be able to legally acquire a firearm that allows them to defend themselves quickly. This will especially impact women and minorities in unsafe areas who may one day want to purchase a weapon for self-defense, but can no longer rely on a firearm for quick defense because they have been made so cumbersome, not to mention that there will be far fewer firearms available that are approved to be sold under this bill.

I am extremely disappointed in our legislature. Instead of focusing on the clear priorities of Colorado voters, like reducing the cost of living through tax cuts, housing deregulation, and reducing crime, some of our elected representatives want to waste time on a bill that is clearly unconstitutional, and will exacerbate the public safety crisis in our state. I believe there are far more important issues to pursue than seeking to disarm the law-abiding citizen.

In the interest of public safety, I am asking you all to please do the right thing and oppose this bill.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Aspling

Hello Chairperson Sullivan and members of the committee. My name is Haley Brown from Boulder.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms and Rapid-Fire Devices.

This bill addresses a critical public safety issue by restricting the sale and transfer of specified semiautomatic firearms. These weapons have been used in numerous mass casualty events across our country. In the last decade, semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines were used in the deadliest mass shooting incidents in modern U.S. history.

Research shows that restrictions on semiautomatic firearms can reduce the lethality of mass shooting incidents. States with restrictions on these weapons have experienced fewer mass shooting fatalities compared to states without such restrictions. When such weapons are used in mass shootings, they result in an average of six times as many people shot per incident compared to shootings involving other types of firearms.

I strongly believe that SB25-003 represents a balanced approach that respects both public safety and responsible gun ownership. The bill includes reasonable exceptions for inheritance and existing owners while taking meaningful steps to prevent future proliferation of these weapons in our communities.

We have the opportunity to make Colorado safer for our children and families. I urge the committee to vote Yes on SB25-003.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Haley Brown  
1/27/25

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. This bill would affect so many people in the state of Colorado and put their lives at risk & danger. California had 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. Governor Polis has also said this type of proposed legislation will not stop or prevent these violent tragedies as well. This type of legislation will see massive opposition from the citizens whether that be next time they see your name on the ballot or in the courts where this type of legislation doesn't stand a chance post Bruen. 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.

Respectfully,

Benjamin O'Loughlin

# Written testimony on SB25-003

Colorado Senate State Affairs Committee  
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## Summary

- If enacted, SB25-003 would be the first firearms prohibition law in the history of Colorado.
- The bill constitutes, by far, the most sweeping, extreme ban on rifles in any U.S. jurisdiction, ever.
- The bill is a very large step towards Mrs. Gabrielle Giffords' stated objective for her organization: "No More Guns. Gone."<sup>1</sup>
- The bill is designed to reduce gun safety by eliminating the safest mechanism for unloading or clearing jams in long guns.
- The bill further reduces safety by outlawing handguns that are best-designed to reduce recoil. More recoil means less accuracy, which means less effective self-defense,

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<sup>1</sup> Philip Elliott, *No More Guns. Gone: Why Gabby Giffords Isn't Giving Up*, TIME, Apr. 26, 2023, <https://time.com/6274979/gabby-giffords-gun-control>.

and more danger of stray shots.

## **I. The Rifle Ban**

### **A. Firearms Safety**

For all types of long guns, detachable box magazines are superior for safety because they make unloading the gun simple.

Safe unloading is always important and is especially important if the user must clear a jam.

To unload a firearm with a box magazine, the user simply presses a button or lever to release and remove the magazine. If there is a round in the firing chamber, the user then cycles the action one time to eject that round.

In contrast, most pump action or lever action long guns store their ammunition in integral tubular magazines. To unload, the user must cycle every round into the firing chamber and then eject it. This is less safe than an unloading method that does not require repeatedly bringing fresh rounds into the firing chamber.

If there is a jam in the firing chamber, then unloading the firearm by cycling rounds through the action may be impossible.

Semiautomatic rifles that have integral, nondetachable magazines suffer the same problem. Some of these magazines may have removable floorplates, but the floorplate may be difficult to remove if it is affixed with a screw or pin. Even if the floorplate is easily removable, such as with a button, the user will have to disassemble the magazine by first removing the magazine's internal spring and the follower before the user can remove the ammunition. (In a magazine, the ammunition rests on a follower, and the follower is pushed by a spring that sits on the base of the magazine.) Then, the user will have to reassemble the empty magazine, introducing the risk of

improper reassembly that could cause an accident.

In short, the ban on detachable magazines for firearms degrades firearms safety.

## **B. The Scope of the Ban**

Below are photos of some of the many rifles that would be banned by SB25-003. These types of rifles are virtually never used in violent crimes of any type. Prohibiting them has no connection with public safety.



Remington Model 740/742 Woodmaster



1982 Remington (U.S.) Model Four Semiautomatic Detachable Magazine Rifle



Benelli R1



1970 Heckler & Koch Model 300 Semi-automatic Detachable Magazine Rifle



1965 Heckler & Koch Model 770 Semi-automatic Detachable Magazine Rifle



Browning High Power Semi-Automatic Rifle



BAR MK 3 – OVIX



BAR Mark III

## **II. The Handgun Ban**

The handgun ban is not as sweeping as the long gun ban. But it is quite irrational. The bill does not ban handguns based on their caliber, firepower, or size. The banned handguns fire slightly slower than the ones that are not (yet) banned. The banned handguns have lower recoil, which makes them safer and more accurate.

Below is one of the guns that would be banned.



Magnum Research Desert Eagle, .357 caliber. The rails on the top and bottom are for attaching a scope or flashlight.

Why is this gun banned, while more powerful semiautomatic handguns, in larger calibers are not?

The difference, according to SB25-003, is the internal recoil system of the gun. I will explain the mechanical issues below. The bottom line is that the internal recoil system that SB25-003 bans is better at reducing the recoil felt by the user. The less the recoil, the more accurate the gun. Thus, SB25-003 is contrary to gun safety, because it forces citizens to use higher recoil, less accurate handguns.

### **Technical explanation**

Every firearm is powered by a gunpowder explosion. As the gunpowder burns, expanding gas pushes the bullet out of the firing chamber, through the barrel, and out the muzzle.

By Newton's Third Law of Motion, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.<sup>2</sup> The gunpowder explosion creates a certain amount for forward energy, which propels the bullet forward. That same explosion also creates an exactly equal amount of backward energy, which is felt by the firearm user as recoil. Recoil is unpleasant and makes the firearm harder to control.

A semiautomatic firearm mitigates the recoil problem. Some of the backwards recoil is diverted to perform a mechanical operation. The recoil energy moves the slide backwards. On most pistols, such as the one pictured above, the slide is the top part of the gun. As the slide moves backwards, it compresses a recoil spring. Then, when the spring is fully compressed, the slide moves forward, returning to its original position. On the way forward, the slide scoops up a fresh round of ammunition from the magazine and loads it into the firing chamber.

In this manner, the amount of recoil energy that is felt by the user is reduced by the amount of energy that was expended in moving the slide and compressing the recoil spring.<sup>3</sup> The majority of semiautomatic handguns operate this way.

A more sophisticated use of recoil is the gas blowback system, which SB25-003 outlaws. In gas blowback, as the expanding gunpowder gas moves forward through the barrel, some of the gas is diverted into a small hole in the side of barrel. From that small hole, the diverted gas travels backwards. The pressure of that backwards-moving gas is used to compress the recoil spring and perform the semiautomatic action.

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<sup>2</sup> In the original: "Lex III: Actioni contrariam semper et æqualem esse reactionem: sive corporum duorum actiones in se mutuo semper esse æquales et in partes contrarias dirigi." Isaac Newton, *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* Book I, Section II, Axioms or Laws of Motion, Law III (1687). Or in English: "Law III: To every action there is always opposed an equal reaction: or the mutual actions of two bodies upon each other are always equal, and directed to contrary parts."

<sup>3</sup> This is a simplified explanation.

Gas blowback is superior to the simple recoil system in reducing felt recoil by the user. For this reason, it is safer. The more the recoil, the less accurate the gun, other things being equal. When recoil is reduced, a firearm is more pleasant to shoot, and hence firearms users are likely to practice more, which further improves safety. Gas blowback guns operate very slightly slower than simpler recoil guns.

### **III. Looking Ahead**

The modus operandi of the gun prohibition lobbies has always that today's exceptions to convince credulous legislators or citizens to accept limited new restrictions later become "loopholes" to be eliminated.

For example, advocates of the 2000 law on gun show sales by private individuals (persons who only sell a few guns per year, and therefore cannot qualify for a Federal Firearms License) vigorously explained that the bill did not apply to ordinary private sales, such as an individual selling a gun to her friend in a hunting club.

Then in 2013, the fact that the gun show bill was only about gun shows was claimed to be a "loophole" that must be closed. The general assembly passed a bill that outlawed all private sales. The bill even outlawed giving your gun to a neighbor for safe storage while you go away for a three week vacation.

The same years, the magazine ban was promoted by Bloomberg "Everytown" lobby and similar groups—which are also lobbying for SB25-003—because it did not ban any guns.

When 55 Sheriffs and many other plaintiffs filed a federal lawsuit over the magazine ban,<sup>4</sup> the ultimate result was the Tenth Circuit deciding that no plaintiff had standing on any issue. Along the way, the Colorado Attorney General, with the

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<sup>4</sup> I represented the Sheriffs.

support of the same lobbies that had promoted the magazine ban and now SB25-003, claimed that the magazine ban would succeed.<sup>5</sup>

Now, those same lobbies are claiming that the magazine ban is a failure, and so the solution is a vast ban on rifles.

For the gun prevention lobbies, nothing succeeds like failure. In Colorado, homicide and other violent crime are now far above the levels when those lobbies captured our state government in 2013.

In the future, it is likely that the continuing failure of legislation aimed at the law-abiding will aggravate Colorado's violent crime problem. The lobbies will be back to close the "loopholes" of their prior laws: to confiscate grandfathered magazines, as in New Jersey and Rhode Island. And to ban and confiscate more long guns and more handguns.

The gun prevention lobbies today use their focus group tested phrase of "preventing gun violence." If you read their statistics closely, you will see that they define "gun violence" to include justifiable self-defense against violent felony attackers. SB25-003 is culture war prosecuted through criminal law. It is not public safety legislation.

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<sup>5</sup> For example, an expert witness for the Attorney General said that the magazine ban would work because Colorado's population centers are remote from our state's borders.

Hello, my name is Corydon Wood. I grew up in the northern Colorado area and now reside in Denver. I grew up with lockdown drills and experienced lockouts multiple times. I have several family members who attended Columbine High School, and while in school I heard directly from the families and friends of victims. I can tell you about the exact moment I saw the news of the Aurora Theater shooting and the outpouring of pain I heard from the community in the following months. I am not ignorant of the impact an individual wielding a weapon can have on our society. I feel a responsibility to create a safer community for my fellow Coloradans and future children. I do not believe that SB25-003 is an effective means of achieving that. This bill dramatically restricts the rights of law-abiding people to bear arms for the purposes of sport and self-defense. It will have little impact on those who wish to act outside of the law. Additionally, it will leave those who are most vulnerable to acts of violence in today's political climate even more vulnerable. The bill is legally ambiguous and fails to address underlying societal sources for violence.

We as a collective should strive to make a society that is safe and equitable for all, but there is a point where safety becomes an individual responsibility. When I go into the backcountry, I take maps and personal locator beacons. I have fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in my home. I have firearms and security systems in the house. It is incumbent upon us to be pragmatic and take precautions against events that may threaten our safety no matter how unlikely. As a member of the firearms community, over just the last week I have heard and read inquiries from people from all backgrounds, including LGBTQ+, minorities, and women, who have begun to realize that the responsibility for personal safety includes gun ownership. These individuals may never get the chance to legally acquire the means of adequate personal protection should this bill pass.

In practical application, by restricting detachable magazines, the firearms that would become restricted by the bill are frequently the ones that serve the need of protection the best. For many, a rifle is the most effective tool for home defense. My partner would find it difficult to safely handle the recoil of a shotgun or the manipulation of a handgun, especially in a stressful situation. A rifle, on the other hand, is more manageable for her to operate and can be safer for those around us due to a higher level of accuracy and reduced over-penetration of barriers.

Last summer, sitting in bed, I heard ten shots a block away from my window followed almost immediately by sirens. I had no idea who shot at what, and where they were going next. I was glad that I had taken measures to protect my family if need be. As it turned out, four teenagers who had stolen a car and had illegally acquired and possessed a handgun. Thankfully

no one was injured, and they chose to run using the car, but had the teens, they could have easily gone into the house less than ten yards from where they were shooting. In the practical application of this bill, law-abiding citizens will be restricted from acquiring most modern firearms. Individuals such as these teens who do not care about the law are already acquiring and possessing firearms illegally, and they will still have easy means of doing so. A sympathetic family member or friend in the next state over for example.

We have begun to see an attrition of rights in this country. Removal of federal protections for women to make choices for their personal health. Threats to the 14th Amendment are being made by the highest tiers of government, and now we see gestures from fascist parties being made openly on national television.

Do not be the ones to continue the erosion of personal rights behind the guise of security. Instead, work to find answers to the tough questions, such as why these outbursts are occurring. Be the ones to support the rights of the people, supporting rights that will help close the gaps in our society that spawn violence. Focus your efforts on improving the educational opportunities for youth, supporting young families in need so that they and their children are not marginalized, supporting individuals with mental health challenges so that they are not ostracized, and supporting public transportation so that those who have mobility challenges can access resources. These are the issues your constituents and future generations will be thankful that you took the time to fix.

SB25-003 Testimony

1/28/15

Kevin Hogg

Hello, my name is Kevin Hogg, I live at 2707 Sedona Hills Drive in Loveland.

And yes, my last name is the same as that young man back in Florida, however I am against gun control and am here to testify against this bill.

Note I have submitted a written copy of my testimony as well.

So I tend to be a numbers guy, and looked up historical data on Colorado firearm homicides and mass shooting deaths over the last several years.

What I discovered was that we have about 250 firearm homicides per year here in Colorado. Of those, we average about 10 due to mass shootings, or about 4% of 250. All this is based on Colorado Department of Health data<sup>1</sup>.

As such, if this bill were to pass and remain in effect, even a 25% reduction in mass shooting deaths would only translate into a reduction in overall firearm homicides by 2 or 3, or an overall reduction by only one percent.

This made me wonder if there were a segment of firearm homicides where the legislature's time could be better spent, or in other words, where we could get more "bang for the buck" no pun intended. Especially since this bill would impinge greatly on our second amendment rights.

As such, I found based on available CDC data<sup>2</sup> for the past 10 years that the firearm homicide rate per 100,000 for the black population in Colorado was roughly six times that of the white population (16.1 vs. 2.7).

In other words, of the roughly 250 firearm homicides per year, deaths for the black population consist of a disproportionate amount of between 40 and 50 homicides per year. If you could bring the rate per 100,000 down even to half what it is today (still way above the rate for the white population) you could save 20 lives per year, or an overall reduction in firearm homicides of 8%. Way better than the 1% you might obtain under this bill.

Bottom line is how about we look for bigger opportunities to reduce gun violence, and in the process, be more mindful of our second amendment rights.

Please vote no on Senate Bill 25-003.

END NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>CDPHE Data, <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-gun-violence-prevention-resource-bank/colorado-firearm-data-dashboard>, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

<sup>2</sup>CDC Data, <https://wonder.cdc.gov/Deaths-by-Underlying-Cause.html>, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Colorado Firearm Homicide Data from CDC:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Black Homicides</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Rate/100k</b>	<b>White Homicides</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Rate/100k</b>
<b>2014*</b>	21	275,766	7.6	69	4,779,487	1.4
<b>2015*</b>	37	284,005	13.0	82	4,860,059	1.7
<b>2016*</b>	33	289,206	11.4	110	4,932,273	2.2
<b>2017*</b>	32	295,430	10.8	114	4,982,527	2.3
<b>2018</b>	45	259,711	17.3	114	4,959,310	2.3
<b>2019</b>	35	264,479	13.2	110	5,006,612	2.2
<b>2020</b>	62	269,041	23.0	149	5,033,960	3.0
<b>2021</b>	55	271,768	20.2	201	5,027,045	4.0
<b>2022</b>	75	276,966	27.1	209	5,032,844	4.1
<b>2023</b>	48	282,708	17.0	188	5,051,985	3.7
<b>AVERAGE:</b>	44.3	276,908	16.1	134.6	4,966,610	2.7

\* From earlier data set

To the members of the Committee and Senate,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my most valued concern for this bill. By outlawing semi automatic firearms with detachable magazines you will single handedly impact some of the most at risk people here in Colorado. Those living with disabilities. The 2 things that best allow people with disabilities to use firearms safely and effectively are detachable magazines and semi automatic operation. The firearms that would still be permitted if this law passes will be nearly unusable to anyone who is not near fully able bodied. The fixed magazines using top loading functions require 2 hands and increased grip strength, and are almost impossible to get as they are not readily manufactured to conform to current state law. Modifying current magazines to be non detachable is also extremely difficult to load and more importantly unload and make safe. I see this impacting those already marginalized in society more than anyone else. How will this impact wounded veterans? How will this impact those who were born different from you or involved in life altering situations? Is their right to self protection and self preservation less than anyone else's? I speak from experience on this. I am an instructor who has worked with people living with disabilities to play sports. I see the adaptations they use, I see how technology improves their lives positively. By passing this bill, you will cause the most vulnerable people in society to be even more vulnerable. This is why I implore everyone on this committee to vote no on passing this bill. Thank you again for your time.

Alex Gough

## SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

This is a gun ban - the worst in the United States, both in the confusing way it's written and the false narrative being used to promote it as a "magazine ban".

Saying it only applies to rifles that accept magazines sounds like they are the few exceptions, but that's not the case - most modern firearms use a magazine to feed rounds (bullets) into the chamber to be fired. This is true for rifles and pistols, although the actual mechanics differ among firearms. This proposed bill is a mess of contradictions that will be impossible to enforce and indefensible in court (in addition to the question of not being constitutional in either the Colorado or United States' Constitutions) and will cost Colorado tax payers millions of dollars when it goes to court.

Consider carefully if you want your voting record to show you supported this blatantly anti-gun bill in the next election cycle.

You, as State Legislators, have NO authority to write, or even consider, legislation that violates the Constitution of the United States of America. You are sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution, not to subvert it. Federal law supersedes State law, and the Constitution of the United States supersedes federal law. The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed." What part of "SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED" is lacking in clarity? This piece of legislation you are considering violates state law, federal law, and the constitution of the United States. This legislation will do NOTHING to reduce crime because criminals are by definition criminals. They don't care about your "laws." This proposed legislation will only serve to criminalize the legal rights of law-abiding citizens concerning keeping and bearing arms. In our Constitutional Democratic Republic you are elected, hired, and authorized to serve the interests of the populace, We The People. You are not elected and paid to become little tyrants. This piece of legislation, if passed, will be an illegal law. I urge you to stop wasting time and money pursuing the passing of unlawful laws and rather spend your time more productively trimming the budget, and pursuing the legal interests and needs of the Citizens of Colorado, who are also Citizens of the United States.

**Subject:** Suggestion to Refine the Fixed Magazine Exception in SB 25-003

Dear Senator Sullivan,

I am writing to provide input on SB 25-003, which aims to regulate specified semiautomatic firearms in Colorado. While I support the bill's intent to address public safety concerns, I believe one of the exceptions outlined in the bill—the one related to firearms with a "permanently fixed magazine"—could benefit from greater precision.

As currently written, the bill does not ban "a firearm that has a permanently fixed magazine that cannot accept more than fifteen rounds of ammunition" from the definition of a "specified semiautomatic firearm." To ensure clarity and consistent enforcement, I recommend the following definition of "permanently fixed magazine" be added to the bill:

**"A permanently fixed magazine is an ammunition feeding device contained in, or permanently attached to, a firearm in such a manner that the ammunition feeding device cannot be removed without disassembly of the firearm action."**

Additionally, I propose defining "disassembly" as:

**"The fire control assembly is detached from the action in such a way that the action has been interrupted and will not function. For example, disassembling the action on a two-part receiver, such as that on an AR-15 style firearm, would require the separation of the upper and lower receivers, with the upper receiver lifted upwards and away from the lower receiver using the front pivot pin as the fulcrum, before the magazine can be removed."**

This refinement would strengthen SB 25-003 in several ways:

1. **Drawing from Proven Models:** Similar definitions of "permanently fixed magazine" in states like California and Connecticut have been successfully implemented without compromising safety or enforcement goals. These states have shown that requiring disassembly of the firearm action for magazine removal creates a practical, enforceable standard that balances public safety with the needs of lawful gun owners.
2. **Clarifying the Exception:** By explicitly defining "permanently fixed magazine," the bill ensures this exception is clearly understood by law enforcement, firearm manufacturers, and the public, reducing the potential for confusion or misinterpretation.
3. **Supporting Safe Maintenance:** Allowing the magazine to be removable upon disassembly is essential for maintaining and cleaning firearms. Routine maintenance is crucial to ensure firearms remain safe and reliable to operate.

This includes removing dirt, debris, and residue that could accumulate over time and interfere with the firearm's functionality. Additionally, the ability to remove the magazine is critical for clearing malfunctions, such as failures to feed or failures to fire, which can render a firearm unsafe if not addressed promptly. Such malfunctions are not only inconvenient but can also pose significant safety risks to the user and others nearby.

### **Specific Example: Addressing Jams in an AR-15**

For example, in the case of an AR-15, a bullet can occasionally become jammed in the chamber, causing the bolt carrier group to become offset between the upper receiver and the buffer tube. When this happens, the upper and lower receivers of the AR-15 cannot be separated due to the misalignment. Furthermore, the ejection port may also be blocked, preventing the safe removal of the jammed round. In such situations, having a magazine that is not permanently affixed (e.g., epoxied, welded, etc.) allows the user to safely and effectively clear the jam by providing access to the chamber through the magazine well and aiding in resolving the malfunction.

If the magazine were permanently affixed (e.g., epoxied, welded, etc.) in place, the gun owner would have to resort to extreme measures, such as (a) attempting to pry the jammed round out through the ejection port (which may be blocked) or (b) even cutting or otherwise permanently damaging the firearm to access the chamber. These actions are not only unsafe but could render the firearm inoperable and create additional hazards for the user. Examples of such hazards include (a) accidental discharge while attempting to forcefully clear the jam, (b) damage to critical firearm components leading to unpredictable operation, or (c) even personal injury from sharp edges or tools used during the process. Ensuring the magazine can be removed under these circumstances is a practical necessity for safe firearm maintenance and aligns with public safety goals.

By including the above definition, the exception for firearms with permanently fixed magazines becomes both enforceable and aligned with the bill's intent to enhance public safety while respecting the needs of lawful gun owners.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony. I appreciate your consideration of this suggestion.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Gibson, Ph.D.

**Written Testimony of Evan Tanguma**

**For the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee**

**For the Hearing “SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices”**

**1/28/2025**

Chairman Weissman, Vice Chairman Sullivan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Evan Tanguma. I am a concerned Colorado native and a father of two. As a father, I understand the position of wanting to take action to increase the safety of vulnerable groups, particularly children, but I am skeptical of the efficacy of SB25-003 in accomplishing this shared goal.

My primary concern for your consideration today is the proposed bill’s usage of a “detachable magazine” as one of the defining characteristics for prohibition of the text’s specified semiautomatic firearms. There are inherent safety risks of non-detachable magazines that could put unnecessary risk on those in the proximity of someone operating a firearm as well as on the operator themselves.

There are certain malfunctions that can be experienced with any firearm, even a reliable one, that require the immediate removal of a magazine for safety. For example, a squib load is when the bullet fails to leave the barrel of a firearm after firing. If a squib is encountered, the firearm must be *immediately* unloaded and the projectile dislodged. Failing to do so can cause an extremely dangerous catastrophic failure in the firearm that could seriously injure the operator as well as any bystanders.

Permanently fixed magazines also complicate the process of unloading a firearm which could encourage poor behaviors and routines regarding the personal maintenance and storage habits of gunowners that could cause dangerous or even fatal accidents.

Please, consider the safety of everyone regarding this legislation. SB25-003, as written, is untested and could set dangerous precedent.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Evan Tanguma

Last winter, a few short months after Jared Polis announced he'd (and I say he because no one voted for this) decided to welcome thousands of Venezuelan "newcomers" to the state, the small, quaint apartment complex I had been living in quickly became overtaken by these so-called "newcomers." Over a span of about a month, at least 20 Venezuelan people had moved into 3 of the 12 apartments in my building. 20 people, mostly adult men, living in 3 small 1-2 bedroom apartments. What followed were raucous parties at all hours of the night, trash strewn everywhere in public areas, bullet holes that materialized outside the apartment building's walls, and overhead lights in the buildings' hallways that were forcibly and intentionally broken. This was never a thing before the "newcomers" moved in. I should know, as I had been living in that apartment building for three years at that point. My husband had been living there for seven years with no issues.....

Then came the incessant door checks and car robberies. I had to get the locks on my car changed not once, but twice, and my husband's car was broken into as well. A firearm was stolen from it.

I would be home, alone, and hear the door knob jingling as if someone was trying to gain entry into the apartment. When the door checks first started, I mistakenly assumed it was my husband returning home, but then the door would never open. When I would go to look through the peephole of the door, I would be met with a display of total darkness as the "newcomers" had taken out the hallway lights. Only then did I realize what was happening and the potential danger I was in.

After that, I began to live in fear that my so-called neighbors would invade my home, rob me and my husband of our stuff, or worse, actually harm me. The door checks continued. Soon, the door checks would be accompanied by loud, highly intimidating knocks on our door. Every time it happened, I would become paralyzed with fear that this would be the time they gained entry into our apartment.

So I, a petite, 25 year old woman, who had never once had any interest or inclination to own a gun before, much less carry one on me every day, went out and got an 8-shot revolver and a conceal carry permit to go with it.

Having my gun absolutely made me feel more safe, but I would still be frozen in fear when the next door check came. I quickly realized that while an 8-shot revolver is good for defending yourself against one, maybe two perpetrators, it is not nearly enough to keep you protected from any more than that, and like I said, there were 5-7 adult men living in each apartment and I always saw them in groups, never alone.

Every time I was home alone, I was afraid. Every time I left the apartment alone, I was afraid. It was torture. Worse still, I was made to feel I was racist for not particularly enjoying my new living situation. The governor himself said the hardship I was enduring was simply a figment of my imagination.

Have any of the people in support of this bill ever lived in fear like that, in their OWN HOMES?

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I think clearly not, otherwise they would not be trying to dictate how other, peaceable people defend themselves.

Eventually the stress and fear became too much, so we left, breaking our lease two months early. Now, my husband and I are not wealthy people. Not in the slightest. We do not have thousands of dollars laying around to break leases with reckless abandon. We left because we had to. For our own safety.

We are still working to pay off the thousands of dollars we were billed for breaking the lease.

Months later, after my husband and I fled the apartment complex we had enjoyed living in for years with no issues, videos surfaced online of alleged Venezuelan gang members carrying very large guns around an Aurora apartment complex. The kind of guns this bill seeks to ban. I felt vindicated in my fear and grateful we had left the apartments we were in when we did, but how did members of a violent foreign gang obtain such firearms in the first place if they are not permitted to have or buy them? The answer is very simple. They were stolen. No amount of gun control laws would have prevented these gang members from obtaining the weapons they use to routinely invade people's homes, torture, rape, and kill innocent people.

I have no criminal history. My worst offense is a speeding ticket I got while driving through Kansas once. Why should \*I\* be kept from buying and owning the weapons this bill seeks to ban, while violent foreign gang members can steal and use them against others and face minimal, if any, consequences for doing so?

The correct answer is I should not. Because not only is this proposed law unjust and more punishing towards law-abiding people than violent criminals, it's also patently unconstitutional.

Should this farce of a bill pass, rest assured it WILL be challenged, and defeated, in court.

Another point: if the sponsors of this bill's intentions are to reduce gun violence, then why are none of them concerned about the effects unfettered internet access and psychotropic drugs have on gun violence?

The average age of mass shooters has dropped precipitously over the past few decades, falling from 39 years old in 1980 to just 22 years old in 2020. (source: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2023-01-25/mass-shootings-monterey-park-half-moon-bay-age-suspects-victims-profile>). I'm curious, why do the sponsors of this bill think that is?? The explanation there seems to have much less to do with guns, and much more to do with the rise of the internet and psychotropic drugs.

As a child of the internet and member of gen z, the answer is clear, it's not "the guns," but rather young people taking drugs with side effects that can make one homicidal and finding community among violent weirdos online. (And also, gangs.)

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Do the sponsors of this bill not believe either of these has influenced gun violence in the US? And if so, why would such a person believe that enforcing unconstitutional gun control is the one and only solution? Without hearing any answers (as I'm sure I won't) from any of the bills' sponsors or the legislators who will vote in favor of it, I am forced to believe that it's because this bill is \*not at all\* about reducing gun violence, but instead about controlling the population, keeping people defenseless and scared to ensure they run into the ever-growing government's arms for a false sense of security.

Why should I resign myself to only purchasing guns the government says I can, when violent foreign gang members will not do the same? Why should I roll over and become a victim to violent crime to satisfy Mark Bloomberg? Why is Mark Bloomberg, a billionaire from New York, and his cronies writing bills up for legislators in the state of Colorado anyway? Can you guys not write your own?

Should this bill pass, I will look forward to purchasing all guns, gun parts and ammo in neighboring states. I will not leave. And I will not be disarmed.

Testimony of Peggy A. Houchin, January 28, 2025

Testimony in opposition to SB25-003 "Assault Weapons" Ban

My name is Peggy Houchin and I live in Loveland, Colorado (Larimer County). I am actively involved with training and educating women regarding firearms usage and safety. I teach a Women's Handgun & Self-Defense class for USCCA. I encourage all women to get firearms training in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. I am passionate about the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment and the right for US citizens to own and use firearms.

I am testifying in opposition to SB25-003 "Assault Weapons" Ban. Approximately 3 years ago, I was taking my dog to the groomers in downtown Loveland. I pulled into their small parking lot and got out of my car to drop off my dog Mitzi. On the way back to my car, a man in a car next to me, began to yell very vulgar obscenities at me. I had absolutely no idea why and before I got to my car, he got out of his car and started towards me with pepper spray. I yelled at him and told him I was going to call 911 and he said "go ahead bitch" call them. I took a photo of his license plates and got back into my car and drove away. I was absolutely terrified and didn't stop shaking until I got home. I contacted the local police who said that it was "assault" and that they would arrest him if I pressed charges. After some discussions with an attorney and the fear of repercussions, I decided to drop it. However, it impacted me in a very negative way, and based on that incident, I've become more passionate about my own safety by carrying a firearm and training other women to protect themselves.

During this incident, several bystanders saw what was happening (including the grooming shop owner) and NO ONE offered to help me. We truly are our own first responders!

I have taught many, many women in my Women's Handgun and Self Defense class and the stories that they share regarding stalkers, angry ex-husbands and boyfriends that have threatened them and their children is mind boggling and tragic! These incidents prompt these women to want to protect themselves with a handgun either as concealed carry or home defense.

SB25-003 is a far over-reaching bill that will do nothing to curb or stop criminals from threatening law-abiding citizens. Responsible gun ownership and gun safety should be the focus of this Legislature instead of taking away rights of law abiding citizens of Colorado.

I STRONGLY urge you to oppose this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Houchin

NRA & USCCA Certified Instructor



**David Lunder**

1310 Spruce Ridge Ln  
Woodland Park, CO 80863  
[lunderd@gmail.com](mailto:lunderd@gmail.com)

January 27, 2025

**Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee**

Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Ave  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003. As a citizen of Colorado and a supporter of the U.S. Constitution, I believe this legislation represents an overreach that infringes upon the fundamental rights of Colorado residents while failing to adequately address the root causes of violence.

While I understand the importance of addressing gun violence, I firmly believe that the focus should be on enforcing existing laws and implementing tougher penalties for those who commit violent crimes with firearms. Criminals, not law-abiding citizens, are responsible for gun-related violence. Strengthening measures to prosecute offenders and ensuring that repeat violent criminals face substantial consequences will be a far more effective way to reduce gun violence than broadly restricting firearm ownership.

The Second Amendment guarantees the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. This right ensures that law-abiding citizens can defend themselves, their families, and their communities. Many law-abiding citizens also enjoy shooting sports and developing skills with firearms. We use semi-automatic firearms for hunting, practicing at gun ranges, and spending time on public lands. We also participate in sanctioned shooting events by organizations such as IDPA, IPSC, and USPSA, which contributes significantly to Colorado's economy. These activities foster camaraderie among like-minded citizens, friends, and neighbors. Senate Bill 25-003 would curtail these pursuits while doing little to deter criminals who obtain firearms illegally.

I urge the committee to consider the consequences of this bill on individual freedoms and livelihoods. Instead of imposing sweeping bans that punish law-abiding citizens, please focus on measures that address the true sources of gun violence—such as human and drug trafficking, gang activity, mental health issues, and recidivism among violent offenders.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I respectfully ask that you vote against Senate Bill 25-003 and instead advocate for solutions that uphold the rights of Coloradans while effectively reducing violence in our state.

Respectfully,

**David Lunder**  
**Woodland Park, CO**

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote no on 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 a number of semi-auto pistols. This includes even 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, as a whole, 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 does little to address the root causes of violence and violates the civil liberties of free 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 imperically shows the 20 laws that have been passed over the last 20 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 your course as legislatures? In the scientific community it is often said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Given the imperical 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 come to the conclusion that this bill is grossly misguided. Thank you for your time and efforts in keeping our state safe. I do hope and implore 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

In 2018, my neighbor just a few doors down was brutally murdered in a home invasion. These criminals got past his door and proceeded to torture him for money they were convinced he was hiding. There wasn't any; they stopped when he died. There are better ways to go, so I'm armed to defend both myself and the people around me. If my number comes up, maybe it won't matter but at least I'll make a go of it; I refuse to die choking on my own blood at the hands of cold, laughing barbarians.

The harsh truth is that the police can't actually protect me and mine; they don't even have a general duty to protect individuals - this has been affirmed by court rulings. That's something I must do myself. And that means having the right tools. Criminals with ill intent will always be more prepared than I am. They choose the time, the place, and the means. That leaves me already on the back foot. By limiting my access to spare magazines, you're not just taking away my tools; you're actively increasing my danger. This makes it harder for me to react, placing my life in more peril than it was yesterday, yet does nothing to deter criminals who ignore these laws anyway.

Please, reconsider disarming law-abiding citizens with laws that won't work as intended or solve the real problems they claim to address.

Thank you.

Joshua J Kitchen  
12005 E Harvard Ave #107  
Aurora, CO 80014



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

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**semi auto gun bill**

1 message

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**Thomas Bowers** <tbpackmules@gmail.com>  
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Fri, Jan 24, 2025 at 3:24 PM

DO NOT LET THIS PASS,then only criminals will have them .! And we won't have a way to protect ourselves and family and country.

To the assembled members of the Senate Committee of State, Veteran, and Military Affairs, I am urging a no vote to Senate Bill 25-003.

There are many that are going to make the case that this bill, if passed, would be a violation of both the Colorado Constitution and the Constitution of the United States of America. However, I would like to start with a part of the bill (or rather, how the bill's sponsors are arguing for it) that I find just as egregious.

In 2013, the Colorado General Assembly passed a law that restricted detachable magazines in firearms to having a capacity of 15 rounds or less. That law appears to be routinely ignored by both citizens and FFLs in the state.

The sponsors of SB25-003 agree that this law is not being followed, but they are using the failure of the State of Colorado to enforce that law to bring SB25-003 forward in the hope that it will fix that.

This is, quite frankly, a bad argument. I will not argue for or against the magazine law at this time because that is not germane to the bill at hand. Despite what the sponsors would like, this bill should not be treated or referred to as a magazine bill, nor should it be propped up by the failings of law enforcement to enforce a law over a decade old. I find the argument that this bill is increasing enforcement of the magazine law as wildly lacking, if not downright dishonest.

If enforcing the magazine law were truly the goal, a much better solution would almost certainly be to identify why the law is not being enforced and correct that. Perhaps there are not enough law enforcement resources, or the law is too vague, or the penalties are not steep enough.

This bill is not about the magazine law, however. This bill seeks to ban the sale, manufacture, and transfer of all semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and gas-operated pistols that can accept a detachable magazine. Not only that, but this bill also gives the Attorney General the power to interpret the law and define it further, without going through the legislative process.

This bill is trying to drive a framing nail with a sledgehammer, and for some reason the bill's sponsors do not seem to think there is anything wrong with that.

To a much broader point, this bill would almost certainly be in violation of the Second Amendment of the US Constitution as affirmed in *DC vs. Heller*, where the majority opinion stated that arms in common use were protected. Unless the argument to be made is that semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and gas-operated pistols that are fed from detachable magazines are not, as a whole, in common use, then this bill fails to meet that Supreme Court decision.

This bill is also significantly more restrictive than the "assault weapon" bans that the General Assembly has failed to pass in the last two years. Unlike the RMGO, I will not refer to this bill as an "assault weapon ban" bill any more than I will refer to it as a magazine bill.

Simply, this bill is trying to do more than any of those other bills, both passed and failed. It is quite frankly stunning that the bill's sponsors can seemingly feel that the failure of law enforcement to do their jobs is a good enough excuse to deny the citizens of Colorado their rights.

Lastly, in speaking of the constitutional issues with this bill, if this bill should pass there would almost certainly be litigation levied immediately. Litigation that the State of Colorado will have to spend time, money, and resources to defend. And the end result of it could be a Supreme Court decision that not only knocks this legislation down, but could possibly do the same for the magazine ban.

It is appalling to me that the General Assembly would waste its time on this. Time that could be spent actually tightening up the enforcement of the magazine ban (as the bill's sponsors seem to think is the issue needing to be solved with this bill). Or heaven forbid, focus on legislation that can increase the quality of life of everyone in Colorado.

I urge a no vote on SB25-003. It does not stand on its merits, the excuse of its existence being predicated by a failure of a law passed over 10 years ago is laughable, and its continued discussion or passage would cost even more time, money, and resources from all sides. Time, money, and resources that should be going toward helping people, not flimsy excuses for a gun ban.



LCS Committees &lt;committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

**SB25-003**

2 messages

**Valerie Passerini** <vpasserini@gmail.com>  
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 2:16 PM

Your portal is acting up. I've tried three times and it just kicks me out to the beginning.

I support this SB25-003 because:

- 1) It's a reasonable restriction on the kind of firearm you can possess.
- 2) It's not retroactive
- 3) The Founding Fathers would not even recognize these kind of weapons. Want to be an originalist, be an originalist.
- 4) They make it too easy for mass killers to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time possible.
- 5) You should want to improve your skill and dexterity as a marksman and shooter in the sport of riflery/shooting. If you need to rely on a magazine, are you not lazy?
- 6) Law enforcement weapons are no match for these kind of guns. Don't you want to support your brothers in blue and not send them into a hun fight with the equivalent of a knife?
- 7) In a country where there are more firearms than citizens, the fact that you're fetishizing an accessory for your gun is absurd. Love humans and give them more consideration than a cold, dead hunk of metal. Did that hurt? If it did, examine why it did.

Valerie Passerini

**LCS Committees** <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>  
To: Valerie Passerini <vpasserini@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 28, 2025 at 2:26 PM

I apologize for this occurrence. I have received your testimony and shared it with the committee.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Burger  
Legislative Council Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

Dear Senators,

Please VOTE NO on SB25-003 Semiautomatic Gun Ban. I am astonished at how committed to disarming Americans the Democratic Party in Colorado is. I don't believe the party has any respect for the Constitution or citizens as shown by not only their repeated attempts to ban citizen use of guns, but also their 'compassion' for illegal immigrants invading our state including those who are criminals. I just watched a story on Denver 7 about a round up of 50 Tren de Aragua gang members in Adams County. Why did it take a Republican President to deport these people? Why don't Democrat elected officials obey the law? Why is a Colorado citizen's right to safety ignored?

My husband and I moved to Colorado from California in 1999. We have watched as Colorado has turned into a drug infested, crime infested, trans-obsessed, crazy environmental policy sanctuary state under Democratic rule. Colorado has gone the way of California. Marxist WOKE DEI ideology has taken over our legislature. One Republican I know in the legislature told me some of her Marxist colleagues don't believe in private property! Teachers are now forced to call a child by their preferred gender name in violation of their First Amendment rights. Those children, if pushed further into their fantasy, will become subject to harmful hormone 'therapy' which will castrate them. How is that compassionate?

We live in Pueblo. Pueblo now has human shit on the streets because of the homeless population. It is not safe. We are seriously thinking about moving to a free state because Colorado no longer honors the Constitution or common sense. Colorado Democrats have become a threat to our freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Pamela Poll

Vote NO on Senate Bill 25-003.

This Bill is an obvious attempt to limit lawful access to firearms that are in common use in shooting sports, hunting, and self-defense throughout the State of Colorado. The Bill provides no reason, aside from being *dangerous*, for limiting access to these firearms by the citizens of Colorado. The danger of all firearms is inherent, which is why access to various firearms is limited by age and/or adult supervision.

This bill attempts to accomplish the same thing as the “Assault Weapons Ban” (Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings HB24-1292) presented in the 2024 legislative session. Though the listing of the types of firearms limited by this Bill would be developed through an administrative function instead of the listing the firearms as in the “Assault Weapons Ban.”

The required Fiscal Review is flawed in that it does not address the loss of revenue from the sale of the firearms that would be prohibited by this bill. It does not address the revenue from the sale of ammunition and accessories that would potentially be used with these firearms.

In the Differential Department paragraph of the Fiscal Review there is an estimated need for \$4.6 million per year for the processing of 1000 firearms per year. This expense and the FTE required to accomplish the 1000 reviews are not listed in the table of revenue and expenses.

Again, vote NO on Senate Bill 25-003.

I am humbly writing to you regarding SB25-003. I am strongly against this bill. I would like to briefly explain my stance.

My name is Joshua Halbert, I have called Colorado my home for well over 20 years. As a veteran I served my country with honor and distinction and honorably discharged in 2008 after 2 deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. After my Discharge under the Don't ask Don't tell policy I returned home to the western slope where my parents reside.

I have worked many jobs and lived in several places in Colorado. I am humbly a middle class, blue collar worker that's proud of my country and our rich history. That history extends not from just my home town, it includes Arapahoe County, our great state of Colorado and these United States of America.

In this country we call home, our Framers and Founders of the constitution specifically sought to enshrine certain inalienable rights. Those rights were enshrined as part of living document. One of those first 10 amendments found in our constitution was the 2nd Amendment. It also happens to be quite possibly the most controversial amendment at the same time.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled several times that although the right to bear arms is a fundamental right States may impose laws that restrict access with in a certain

degree. It is not argument that states can make laws which are in line with federal laws. What is of contention is how much states can do beyond federal laws because of supremacy.

Colorado has long held the right to self defense and to hunt. The US Supreme Court as well as the Colorado Supreme Court, has long held that the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution, is in best interest of all American citizens. As a matter of jurisprudence and as a matter of public interest the right to own commonly available firearms and ammunition as well as other commonly available weapons are in fact a fundamental right to the people of our State and our country. Nothing withstanding, that a person who has committed acts of violence or known as to have committed violent, immoral, or acts against this state or country shall be prohibited.

The US Supreme Court as well as members of Congress has had no issue with the definition of commonly available firearm definition. This bill essentially establishes that those firearms are now to be considered a public danger.

A Semi-automatic firearm is defined by the the Dictionary as :

1. partly automatic

2. *(of a firearm)*

automatically ejecting the cartridge [case](#) of a fired shot and [loading](#) the [next](#) cartridge from the [magazine](#) but

requiring a squeeze of the trigger to fire  
each individual shot

If we look towards the definition of commonly available firearm as defined by US Supreme Court we would find that most of the firearms available to general public are considered to be known as common firearms. This would include At style rifles. Currently the AR Platform in its semi automatic design is considered to be a commonly owned firearm. The very same is true of many semiautomatic pistols and shotguns.

This legislation is attempting to restart the conversation on assault weapons and the desire to ban them. In reality assault weapons is a misnomer as AR rifles, which stands for Armordite, a brand, is simply a rifle. We can flip words to call a vehicle an assault vehicle simply because of the name we give it, even if it may not be accurate. What this legislation will do is ban commonly owned firearms. It will not deter or reduce Crime.

In Colorado as of last year and previous consecutive years, we can clearly see that the mortality rate from AR Rifles is excessively lower compared with other firearms, vehicles, narcotics, Alcohol, motor vehicle accidents. In fact in comparison the leading causes of death in both Colorado as well as the nation, firearms aren't even in the Top 5. Taking that in context, Sport rifles and their various configurations don't even account for 1 percent of the national homicide rate

See the graphic below for more information from the CDC and from the Uniform Crime Report (UCR

So to sum up my thoughts this is bad legislation as it's being made in bad faith. The whole context of this legislation is based on hysteria. Sb25-003 is misguided in that its banning a semiautomatic firearms irrespective of the facts to contrary. Banning firearms will not resolve violent crimes. It will make it worst as it will increase weapon trafficking it will increase homicides and other illicit activities. In several states crime has severely decreased with out firearm bans. The highest crime is in areas where both poverty and firearm restrictions are concentrated. From Washington to New York; LA to Chicago each of these cities have seen a dramatic increase in crime.

It's also unconstitutional to ban commonly used firearms. Recent Court cases across the Country have pointed to costly litigation. Litigation for this ban would cause an unnecessary burden to Colorado residents. As a proud Colorado resident this onslaught against firearms has gotten out of control.

The real solutions needed in Colorado is infrastructure, reducing the price of housing and the cost of living. Colorado communities are hurting because of the lack of healthcare and the lack of affordable housing. Are state is seeing an increase in crime not because of firearms; its seeing an increase because both Colorado Residents and hard working families are being placed in extraordinary

circumstances. Entire communities are being destroyed by gentrification and overpopulation. The state has made very little effort to reduce the cost of living and therefore are in fact increasing crime by the desperation of its citizens. This bill would also have severe impact against rural communities and would place hardworking families and store owners in severe financial hardship. By removing these firearms it would specifically, and ironically place a larger burden on taxes as it would decrease industry GDP and in that light, decrease tax revenue. Firearms and outdoor sporting is a huge domestic product for our state. By placing a ban on firearms, you, our legislators, are not acting in good faith to your constituents. Your acting in bias to radicalism. It would further push former democrats like myself further right. Our country is on the verge of democratic collapse because of radical ideology from both parties. I really hope that this country I served to protect can begin to heal. It starts by reminding ourselves of our unalienable rights. It starts by accepting all religions and each other while enshrining our constitution in its entirety.

I am writing to you as Colorado residents and an American. I implore you to reconsider your position on this matter. I am a veteran, a Native American, a member of LGBTQ, and a hard working blue collar worker. Please don't strip my fellow constituents of

their rights, please don't make Colorado business owners and their families suffer for political points.

Thank you for reading my opinion and I hope that this information may aim to help you reconsider this unconstitutional, unnecessary burden that would be placed against Colorado communities.

Respectfully,  
Joshua Halbert  
7204849122

Major Andrew Whitmey, USAF

Monument, CO 80132

dwhitmey@gmail.com

949-412-9994

28 January, 2025

Colorado State Legislature

State Capitol

200 E Colfax Ave

Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Opposition to SB25-003 – Violation of Constitutional Rights

Dear Members of the Colorado State Legislature,

As a current reservist in the United States Air Force and a former active-duty pilot with 12 years of service, I write to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003. Since commissioning as an officer in 2011, I have sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. This oath does not expire when I take off my uniform; it is a lifelong commitment to safeguarding the rights and freedoms of my fellow citizens.

SB25-003 seeks to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, and sale of specified semiautomatic firearms, an overreaching measure that directly infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Coloradans. The right to bear arms is not a privilege granted by the government—it is an inherent right enshrined in the Constitution, affirmed by Supreme Court precedent, and vital to a free and secure society. As someone who has dedicated my career to defending this nation, I cannot remain silent as legislative efforts seek to strip away the fundamental liberties of those I have sworn to protect. Not only is this an attack on my fellow citizens, this bill actively erodes my ability to defend myself and my family, after I have faithfully served this nation.

Beyond its constitutional violations, SB25-003 fails to acknowledge the reality that criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. Restricting access to commonly owned firearms does nothing to deter violent crime; instead, it disarms law-abiding citizens, leaving them defenseless while criminals remain undeterred. As someone who has trained extensively in the use of firearms for defensive and military purposes, I can attest that responsible firearm ownership is not the problem—criminal misuse is.

Furthermore, the bill's attempt to classify "rapid-fire devices" as dangerous weapons is overly broad and ambiguous. Legislation that fails to provide clear, precise definitions creates legal uncertainty for citizens who seek to comply with the law while exercising their rights.

I urge you to oppose SB25-003 and instead focus on enforcing existing laws, addressing the root causes of crime, and respecting the constitutional rights of Coloradans. As an officer who has dedicated my career to defending this nation, I ask that you honor the same Constitution I have sworn to protect.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any discussion on this matter and am more than willing to engage in a respectful, informed dialogue regarding responsible firearm policy.

Sincerely,

Andrew Whitmey, Major

United States Air Force Reserve

## Written Testimony Against Colorado Senate Bill 25-003

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding Senate Bill 25-003. My name is Eldon Rizzi, and I am a father, husband, and lifelong resident of rural Colorado. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to this proposed legislation.

As a rural Coloradan, firearms are an integral part of our daily lives. We rely on them for hunting, which provides sustenance for our families, and for protecting our livestock from predators. The broad definitions in SB 25-003 encompass many commonly used semiautomatic rifles and shotguns with detachable magazines, which are essential tools in our rural existence.

The bill's prohibition on the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, or purchase of these specified semiautomatic firearms would not only criminalize law-abiding citizens but also disrupt traditions that have been passed down through generations. The allowance for transferring such firearms only to heirs, individuals in other states, or federally licensed firearm dealers severely limits our ability to maintain and share these tools within our communities.

Moreover, the classification of devices that increase the rate of fire as dangerous weapons is concerning. Many of these devices have legitimate uses, such as improving firearm performance for hunting or sport shooting. This broad classification could inadvertently criminalize responsible gun owners who utilize these devices safely and ethically.

The penalties outlined in the bill are also disproportionately harsh. A first offense is classified as a class 2 misdemeanor, with subsequent offenses escalating to a class 6 felony. This could result in lifelong consequences for individuals who have no malicious intent and are simply exercising their constitutional rights.

Furthermore, the economic impact on our rural communities cannot be overlooked. Many local businesses depend on the sale and service of these firearms. The implementation of SB 25-003 could lead to significant financial hardship for these small businesses, further straining our local economies.

In conclusion, while I understand the intent to enhance public safety, SB 25-003 overreaches and imposes undue burdens on rural Coloradans. I urge you to consider the unique needs and traditions of our communities and vote against this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eldon Rizzi  
La Jara, Colorado



1/27/2025

## Written Testimony Against Colorado SB25-003

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective. My name is Sarai Rizzi, and I am a rural mother of two teenage boys. I am writing today to express my opposition to Colorado SB25-003.

In our rural community, firearms are more than tools—they are a part of our culture, tradition, and way of life. My husband and I have taught our boys the importance of responsible gun ownership, safety, and respect. They use firearms for hunting, a vital practice that helps put food on our table, and they enjoy sport shooting as a skill-building and bonding activity.

This legislation would disrupt our family's ability to continue these traditions. The broad restrictions on commonly used semiautomatic firearms and magazines unfairly target law-abiding citizens like my family. These firearms are not "weapons of war" in our hands—they are tools for sustenance and personal safety in an environment where law enforcement is often hours away.

As a mother, my primary concern is the safety and well-being of my children. But I also want to raise my boys to understand their rights and responsibilities. This legislation sends the wrong message—that the government does not trust responsible citizens to make safe and informed decisions. SB25-003 punishes rural families like mine who use firearms legally and responsibly, instead of addressing the root causes of gun violence.

Additionally, the economic impact on rural communities cannot be ignored. Small businesses in our area that sell firearms and accessories would be hit hard, affecting local jobs and livelihoods. This bill may also prevent my sons from passing down their firearms to future generations, a cherished tradition in our family.

While I understand the desire to reduce violence, SB25-003 is not the solution. It creates unnecessary burdens for families like mine, who are already doing their part to ensure firearms are used responsibly. I urge the committee to consider alternative approaches that address violence without infringing on the rights and traditions of rural Coloradans.

Please vote against SB25-003. Protect our rights, our way of life, and the ability of mothers like me to raise responsible and self-reliant children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Sarai Rizzi  
La Jara, Colorado

## Written Testimony

Written testimony is a public record under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) and is provided to individuals upon request. Individuals submitting written testimony must use this sheet, but do not need to complete the optional portions. Attachments to this sheet are permitted. Please see a staff person for any questions regarding written testimony.

Bill: SB25-003

Date: 1-28-2025

I was born in Selma, Alabama two years before Martin Luther King marched there and my birth certificate states colored for race. My parents moved me to Colorado at a young age to the Western Slope where we resided. I have almost thirty three years of combined corrections and law enforcement experience with twenty six years with Denver Police Department and after retirement seven months with the Denver District Attorneys Office as a senior investigator tasked with setting up a firearms relinquishment program in the domestic violence unit. I was able to establish the program with great ~~success~~ success without violating the defendants civil rights. Out of all of the weapons relinquished I only seized two firearms that were used in prior crimes. SB25-003 does violate every citizens civil

Name	Michael Graves	
Address <i>(optional)</i>		
City <i>(optional)</i>	Zip <i>(optional)</i>	80112
Telephone: <i>(optional)</i>		
Email: <i>(optional)</i>		
Representing	Self	
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	



## Written Testimony

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Bill: SB25-003

Date: 1-28-2025

rights who are law abiding. The second amendment is the only civil right that government tries to restrict. This state house has a terrible record on crime, punishment and mental health. I actually did the first red flag case in Colorado and I did it the correct way and not the state house way as passed. Senator Sullivan you have my condolences on the loss of your son and others at the Aurora theater shooting. That mass shooting along with others did not have to happen and it was a total failure of the system in regards to all victims and defendants and the domino effect that occurred. My son was a student at Platte Canyon High School and I know about mass shooting incidents. The focus of this house should not be on the law abiding on what firearms or accessories that they can legally purchase.

Name Michael Graves		
Address (optional)		
City (optional)	Zip (optional)	80112
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional)		
Representing Self		
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	



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Or those that they  
cannot purchase but on  
crime, punishment  
and the mental health  
aspect. We as firearms  
owners are not to be colled into a  
different group on whether or not  
we are entitled to our civil rights and  
if they apply to us just because we own  
firearms. I have observed a lot of carnage  
in my career and this law like the  
other gun laws of this state do nothing  
for public safety. Please vote no  
on this bill.

Name		
Address <i>(optional)</i>		
City <i>(optional)</i>		Zip <i>(optional)</i> 80112
Telephone: <i>(optional)</i>		
Email: <i>(optional)</i>		
Representing Self		
Position on Bill:	For	Against
	Neutral	



## Concerning SB 25 03 Outlawing Detachable Magazines

1: This bill is blatantly unconstitutional. This a back door attempt to outlaw rights to the 2nd Amendment by lawful citizens.

2: Outlawing detachable magazines outlaws most commonly used firearms used for lawful purposes. That includes weapons used by CCWs in Colorado. Many of whom are Democrats who have a proven need to carry a weapon of their choice. Revolvers are harder to conceal than a single stack magazine semiauto.

3: This prevents the use weapons in common lawful use in this state since semi auto weapons came into common use in this country about 1900. The US Supreme Court has ruled against outlawing historical common use weapons.

4: This bill will not stop a single punk from committing one single crime. This is the myth of anti firearm misguided liberals.

5: This is personal legislation for a special interest group which includes Mr. Sullivan, the sponsor that is contrary to preserving law and order for the majority of citizens.

6: I doubt most law enforcement will engage in much enforcement of this legislation. They are pretty much



ignoring previous legislation that nibbles away at the 2nd Amendment.

7: This will do great harm to legal firerarm busineeses in Colorado. And the business will simply go to other states.

Peggy Sue Andre, Denver Colorado

Colorado CCW.

720 363 0710



- Firearms with detachable magazine have been in use since the American frontier – i.e. the Lewis and Clark expedition carried a Girardoni rifle that used 22 round detachable tubular magazines.
- Tubular magazines were most popular in the mid to late 1800's with the advent of "cartridges". Some of these magazines are fixed, some are not. All can be removed to be serviced or replaced.
- Tubular magazines used round and flat tipped projectiles; they cannot be used with modern ammunition that utilizes a "pointy" cartridge design (comparison below, right). The point of one cartridge sits on the primer of another, causing a potentially catastrophic "chain fire" event if the rifle is jostled in such a way as to put force on the primer of a cartridge (below left).



- The Lee–Metford rifle (below), developed in 1888, was one of the first modern rifles to use a detachable box magazine, though this was only detachable for cleaning and not swapped to reload the weapon.



- The first modern use for centerfire long guns was the removable box magazine patented in 1908 by Arthur Savage for the Savage Model 99 (1899), a lever action hunting rifle (shown below in a print add from the early 1900's).



- Modern centerfire long guns cannot use any magazine type other than a box magazine. The box magazine not only safely holds additional ammunition, but also makes it possible to remove ammunition from the firearm and clean the firearm and magazine in a safe fashion.



- A standard semi-automatic pistol, shown here, uses a cable lock by removing the magazine of the handgun, running the lock through the action and magazine well, then locking; the lock makes the firearm inoperable.



- A modern semi-automatic rifle uses a cable lock by removing the magazine and running the lock through the action of the firearm. The two rifles shown in above are a common AR-15

.223 (left), and a modern semi-automatic hunting rifle AR-10 variant chambered in 6.5 mm Creedmoor. 6.5 mm Creedmoor has a .264 inch diameter and is more than 2 times as powerful.



- Modern bolt action rifles are secured by running a trigger lock through the magazine and action. The pictures above show how a trigger lock is employed on a bolt action rifle. The magazine is removed and the trigger lock run through the action. In this case, the same bolt action rifle can be mounted in either the stock on the left or right. The gun is a hunting rifle chambered in the powerful 6.5mm PRC (Precision Rifle Cartridge). The 6.5 PRC is roughly 2.5 times more powerful than a standard AR15 .223.



- A semiautomatic shotgun is secured by running a trigger lock through the action and the shotguns loading port. Shotgun magazine capacity is increased by screwing an extended tube on the magazine. A standard 12 gauge shotgun slug traveling at one half the speed of a typical AR15 bullet will have 3 times as much energy (power).



- A modern lever action rifle capable of using modern hunting ammunition uses a detachable magazine like the one shown above. It is secured with a cable lock after removing the magazine. This rifle is chambered in .308 Winchester (also known as 7.62 NATO). The .308 Winchester is a hunting round that is roughly 3 times as powerful as the standard AR15 chambered in .223 (also known as 5.56 NATO).



- Historic semi-automatic firearms like the pre D-Day M1 Garand pictured above and below are also prohibited under the ban. These firearms historical value would be destroyed if altered. The ammunition feeding device is different than most modern magazines, as the clip has no internal springs and it cannot be loaded or unloaded unless removed from the gun. There is no way to permanently affix this clip in a functional rifle. The M1 Garand is chambered in 30-06 (commonly pronounced as “thirty-ought-six”). The 30-06 is the “precursor” to the .308 (7.62 NATO). It is a larger and slightly more powerful round than the latter, but is again roughly 3 times as powerful as a modern AR15 in standard .223 (5.56 NATO).









MY NAME IS MICHAEL QUINLAN, SSG, U.S. ARMY RETIRED.  
I'M HERE IN TOTAL AND COMPLETE OPPOSITION TO SB25-003.

NOW THIS BILL HAS A LONG NAME, BUT I'LL SHORTEN FOR EVERYONE:

THE CRIMINAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY ACT.

I CALL THE BILL THIS SINCE THE BILL DOES NOTHING TO PROTECT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN. IT WILL NOT STOP MUDERERS FROM MURDERING, THIEVES FROM STEALING, PEDOPHILES FROM ATTACKING CHILDREN, NOR RAPISTS FROM RAPING.

WHAT IT WILL DO IS PREVENT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN FROM ACQUIRING A FIREARM SO THAT THEY MAY PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM YOUR FRIENDS: THE CRIMINALS.

WHILE THE AVERAGE LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN WILL FOLLOW THE LAW, CRIMINALS WILL NOT, THUS THIS BILL WILL ALLOW CRIMINALS FREE REIN OVER THE PEOPLE.

THIS BILL IS ALSO MEANT TO PUT GUN SHOWS AND GUN STORES OUT OF BUSINESS SINCE MOST OF THE WEAPONS SOLD THERE WILL BE MADE ILLEGAL, ~~THUS KEEPING GUN STORES FROM BEING ABLE TO STAY IN BUSINESS.~~ I GUESS AN ACT THAT IS PROTECTED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IS SOMETHING YOU CANNOT STAND.

IN CLOSING, SECTION 9 SAFETY CLAUSE OF THE BILL STATES THAT; "this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety" WELL SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I WOULD

RATHER LIVE WITH DANGEROUS, UNSAFE FREEDOM OVER  
YOUR PEACEFUL, HEALTHY AND SAFE SLAVERY.

THANK YOU.

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Bill: SB25-003

Date: Jan. 28, 2025

Name <u>Laurie Gastrell</u>		
Address <small>(optional)</small> <u>5760 S. Rock Creek Dr.</u>		
City <small>(optional)</small> <u>Castle Rock</u>	Zip <small>(optional)</small> <u>80109</u>	
Telephone: <small>(optional)</small>		
Email: <small>(optional)</small> <u>GATRELL.LLEGMAIL.COM</u>		
Representing <u>Self</u>		
Position on Bill:	For	Against <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Neutral	

At the time of the Columbine Shooting,  
I had six little children and one on the  
way. I can't imagine having to loose  
even one of them. At the time of the

Aurora shooting, one of my sons lived just down the way from the theater.  
I am so sorry for your loss and anguish.

Both of these events caused me to feel OUTRAGE.

Was there noone in these fish barrels who could have fought back?  
were there no citizens with CCW's who could have protected the  
defenseless?

The police arrived late, but the damage was done.

As a parent, when a child breaks the family rules, he alone is  
punished, not his innocent siblings. This bill is just more punishment  
for the innocent.

Criminals are cowards, they prey on the weak and defenseless.

We don't need to demonize weapons. We need more citizens to  
know their way around a gun and understand gun safety.

This bill would consign more Coloradans to victimhood.

We need a semi-auto pistol in the pocket, purse, and waistband  
of every innocent, law-abiding citizen, and a rifle for every  
regular innocent, law-abiding citizen, and they should be  
every bit as powerful as the enemy's, the criminals.



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Page 2

We need gang members to FEAR that their intended victim could be the victor.

We need criminals to FEAR the possibility of instant retribution for their crimes.

We need more warriors, not wallflowers.

We don't need fear mongering of weapons, we need more fierce & feisty law-abiding citizens willing and able to face down those cowards who are attacking defenseless schools, theaters, grocery stores, and clubs.

We need more Buffalo Bills and Annie Oakleys, more citizen militia of the Constitution.

Please vote no on this victim-mentality bill and instead, hit the REAL criminals with BOTH BARRELS!!

Name <u>Laurie Gattrell</u>		
Address (optional)		
City (optional)	Zip (optional)	
Telephone: (optional)		
Email: (optional) <u>GATRELL.LL@GMAIL.COM</u>		
Representing <u>Self</u> <u>COM</u>		
Position on Bill:	For	Against <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Neutral	

