

My name is Grant Cramer, I am a Junior at Denver East High School, and co-president of East Students Demand Action. Like most students in America, I am familiar with the fear of gun violence in my school. My freshman year I survived three shootings in and around my school building. My experiences with gun violence completely changed my perspective on the high school experience. The feeling of terror I felt after hearing gunshots in my school hallway will never leave me. I will always remember returning to class and seeing the empty chair of a classmate hospitalized after a shooting, not knowing if he will live or die. I will never forget mourning the death of a schoolmate outside my school building, wondering if I would be next. My fear is not unique. In Colorado, the gun violence epidemic continues to take the lives of students and youth at alarming rates, with no end in sight. As legislators, ensuring students are safe in our schools and communities is your job. We are counting on you all to end the gun violence epidemic in Colorado. HR25-1250 is the right step in this direction. By ensuring that gun violence prevention resources are available in both written and electronic formats, education on safe storage and gun practices can be spread through our communities, creating a more educated and informed populace that will take more meaningful steps to secure their weapons and keep our communities safe. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 guns are stolen annually, falling into the hands of criminals and dangerous individuals. Securely storing firearms is associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens, so it's crucial to make sure people are educated. By making gun violence prevention resources part of the annual school communication process, this bill fosters ongoing education and awareness, which is crucial in creating safer spaces for our children. I urge you to support HB25-1250, as it will empower families and communities to work together to reduce gun violence and help create a safer future for all of Colorado's students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## **Gun Control Research- Dr. Gary Kleck- Gun most effective way to resist robbery and assault- up to 2.5 million defensive gun uses per year by U.S. adults**

Dr. Kleck, a professor of criminology at Florida State University is a registered Democrat, a member of the ACLU, does not own guns, and takes no money from anyone on either side in the debate. In 1988, Kleck published an article in the journal, *Social Relations*. This article, the first major research effort that measured defensive gun use, was based on state and national studies.

Dr. Kleck estimated that about 1 million adults per year use a gun for self-defense in the U.S. Kleck's research included studies done for the anti-gun National Alliance Against Violence, and the National Crime Victimization Surveys. Kleck concluded that gun use was the most effective and safest way of resisting a robbery or assault, safer than not resisting, running away, or using another method of resistance.

In 1991, Dr. Kleck published *Point Blank: guns and violence in America*. The book won an award in 1993 from the American Society of Criminology for an "outstanding contribution" to the field.

Not satisfied with the sources for his previous work, Dr. Kleck and his colleague Marc Gertz created a new survey with a sample size of about 5,000 individuals to better measure defensive gun use. With the new survey, Kleck and Gertz estimated between 2.2 to 2.5 million defensive gun uses per year in the U.S. Women were the defenders in about 46% of the cases reported. Less than 25% of the reporting defensive users indicated that they fired a shot during the incident under consideration. There is a less than 1% chance that a defender's gun will be taken from him or her by an assailant, according to Dr. Kleck.

Dr. Marvin Wolfgang was asked to critique the Kleck/Gertz Study. Dr. Wolfgang's review included the following: "I am as strong a gun-control advocate as can be found among... criminologists... they (Kleck and Gertz) have provided an almost clear-cut case of methodologically sound research in support of something I have theoretically opposed for years... the use of a gun in defense against a criminal perpetrator... I do not like their conclusions that having a gun can be useful, but I cannot fault their methodology."

The absolute lowest estimates of about 100,000 defensive gun uses per year in this country come from the Department of Justice, using U.S. Census information. There is no question in the survey that asks about defensive firearms' use. This estimate is probably a serious undercount.

The Clinton Justice Department funded what was supposed to be a counter study debunking the Kleck/Gertz research. In 1996, anti-gun researchers Ludwig and Cook came up with about 3 million defensive gun uses per year. They then decided that it is impossible to measure the true number of persons who use guns in America for self-defense.

The research done by Kleck and Gertz indicates that defensive use of firearms by private citizens is a significant factor in stopping criminal violence. The research also lends itself to the conclusion that in most cases where a gun is used to resist robbery or assault, no shots are fired.

### Sources:

- ❑ Blackman, Paul H., Ph.D., "Armed Citizens and Crime Control," <http://www.nraila.org/issues/articles/read.aspx?id=125>.
- ❑ Kopel, David, Independence Institute, panel discussion on guns and self-defense, Warwick Hotel, Denver, Colorado, July, 2009. <http://vids.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=vids.individual&VideoID=60107462>
- ❑ "How Often Are Firearms Used in Self-Defense?" [http://www.guncite.com/gun\\_control\\_gcdguse.html](http://www.guncite.com/gun_control_gcdguse.html).
- ❑ Stevens, Richard W., "Statistics and 'Gun Control,'" Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, Inc, <http://www.jpfo.org/filegen-a-m/data-docs.htm>.  
Firearms Coalition of Colorado, PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

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

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

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

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

Wright and Rossi reported that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Testimony in opposition to: HB25-1250, Gun Violence Prevention & Parents of Students**

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

Thank you, Chair and Committee

My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado an NRA-affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety.

I am a former U.S. Army Officer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration. Based on testimony from many young people on many bills in committee, we believe that Colorado students are experiencing mental health issues resembling anxiety disorder or paranoia. We have heard tearful stories of students fearful of going to school, because of the perceived threat of a mass shooting.

Since the state has refused to take positive action to stop school shootings by posting armed guards at the institutions, we believe it is not helpful put forth additional government "information." We believe this additional emphasis on "gun violence" will contribute to the fear and anxiety that seem to be endemic in the school population.

In an apparent attempt to save money for the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the legislation requires school districts and other affected entities to download the information from the Office Website. The affected entities are then to post the information on their websites and forward information to all parents with children served by the entities. We believe this is an unfunded mandate for the affected institutions.

On the Website, the Office of Gun Violence (OGVP) encourages unqualified people to make judgements regarding the mental health of an individual who might be a danger to self or others by filing an Extreme Risk Protection Order. (ERPO) ERPOs create a situation where armed police officers are dispatched to confront an individual who they have been told is mentally unstable and a potential danger to them. In Maryland, a Black Man, Gary Willis, was killed by police when he was "red flagged" by a relative for comments made during a holiday dinner.

We have heard over and over in committee after committee that young persons' brains are not developed until the age of 25. Do we want people with undeveloped brains to be encouraged to take actions that will potentially put innocent others at risk?

The Website encourages students and parents to have conversations with friends, family, and neighbors about the dangers of gun ownership. It seems as if the office is encouraging student and parent activism against the ownership of firearms.

The OGVP Website links to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Website for violence prevention strategies. The following is an excerpt from the CDC Site regarding “upstream” gun violence prevention measures.

[“About Violence Prevention | Violence Prevention | CDC”](#). The fourth level looks at the broad societal factors that help create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited. These factors include social and cultural norms that support violence as an acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Other large societal factors include the health, economic, educational, and social policies that help to maintain economic or social inequalities between groups in society. Prevention strategies at this level include efforts to promote societal norms that protect against violence as well as efforts to strengthen household financial security, education and employment opportunities, and other policies that affect the structural determinants of health.”

We are concerned that the “societal norms” promoted by the CDC and the OGVP include the progressive demonization of guns and gun owners, disregarding the positive effects that firearms have in the deterrence and prevention of crime. (Please see attached files with research by Wright and Rossi and Gary Kleck.)

We believe this bill threatens to degrade student mental health, indoctrinate students against firearms ownership, and further divide families and neighbors.

We urge a “No” vote on this bill.

Thank you.

Robert Edmiston  
Volunteer Lobbyist  
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado  
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**House Education**

**03/06/2025 01:30 PM**

**HB25-1250 Gun Violence Prevention & Parents of Students**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
<p>Jeanne Bucci For themselves</p>	<p>Hello Chair Lukens and House Education Committee Members,</p> <p>I am submitting testimony in support of HB25-1250 Gun Violence Prevention and Parents of Students.</p> <p>Firearms are the number one cause of death of children in Colorado and in the U.S.</p> <p>Making sure that all parents and guardians have information about gun violence prevention, such as the extreme importance of safe storage, will definitely save lives.</p> <p>The schools are uniquely poised to reach the largest number of parents and guardians, so this bill just makes sense.</p> <p>Let's keep our children and communities safe!</p> <p>Vote "Yes" on HB25-1250.</p> <p>Thank you, Jeanne Bucci</p>
<p>Sheila Wheeler For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you committee for reading my testimony. (A virus-riddled kid keeps me from showing my support and sharing my testimony in person.) My name is Sheila, I'm a 9-year Denver, CO resident, and I am testifying in support of HB25-1250.</p> <p>As a mom and community caregiver, I believe that setting kiddos up for success should be one of our highest priorities. Colorado's youth have spoken eloquently and passionately about how adults can make them safer. Though repeating, the statistics from public health</p>

	<p>sources are astonishing: more than 70% of firearms used by minors in suicides, unintentional shootings and shootings on school grounds come from their or a relative's home.</p> <p>This bill ensures adults know the law and options for secure storage in order to prevent unintentional and unwanted access to firearms.</p> <p>Said another way, this bill reenforces a culture of safe firearm ownership, which is an intent for which there is unequivocal, nonpartisan commitment.</p> <p>This bill empowers adults with knowledge to prevent firearm-related horrors before they happen. Please vote yes on HB25-1250.</p>
<p>Amanda Ranard For themselves</p>	<p>I'm a mother of two young children and live in Longmont.</p> <p>I'm writing in support of HB25-1250 (Gun Violence Prevention &amp; Parents of Students) to distribute gun violence prevention materials to families of students in Colorado.</p> <p>Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in the US (source: <a href="https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/guns-remain-leading-cause-of-death-for-children-and-teens">https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/guns-remain-leading-cause-of-death-for-children-and-teens</a>), and 4.6 million children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun (source: <a href="https://besmartforkids.org/">https://besmartforkids.org/</a>). Providing information about secure storage and other gun violence prevention measures is an important step in keeping kids safe.</p> <p>Schools are trusted educational leaders in our communities and are a logical resource to educate families on how to prevent tragic gun deaths and injury in kids. In my family's school district of St Vrain Valley, there are 33,000 students across 60 schools in 13 communities. By having SVVSD and other school districts in Colorado share these resources, we can ensure that all families with kids are receiving this life-saving information.</p> <p>This bill is nonpartisan in nature and seeks only to educate. It has the potential to prevent tragic gun violence in our state and make all kids, including my own, safer.</p>
<p>Kallie Leyba For</p>	<p>We owe this to our kids.</p>

<p>American Federation of Teachers Colorado</p>	<p>The Youth Advisory Council asked for the adults in this building to take this step towards their safety. Voting yes is a no brainer!</p> <p>Any legislation with the word "gun" in it brings controversy but this bill doesn't need to be controversial. The NRA advocates for safe storage of weapons, and I'm confident that no matter what our political beliefs are, we all want our kids to be safe, and we know that guns in the hands of our kids (without adult supervision in a sports setting) is not a way for them to be safe.</p> <p>Talking about safe storage of weapons is important—normalizing this conversation will save the lives of our students, from accidental shootings, to suicide, and of course mass school shootings.</p> <p>You've probably heard me testify in the past against putting more onto our schools. But this is life and death. And it's not a burden for our schools. Keeping kids safe is the number one priority for educators, and this is an easy way to help keep them safe.</p> <p>The AFT Colorado encourages you to vote yes on this bill.</p>
<p>Missy Espinoza Against themselves</p>	<p>This office is a WASTE of tax payer dollars. If the information that is given through this bill is anti-civil rights propaganda, we will be looking to get this office shut down through DOGE. Kill this bill.</p>
<p>Dawn Fritz For Colorado PTA</p>	<p>Thank you to the Colorado Youth Advisory Council for bringing forward their concerns and thank you to the Rep Hamrick and Senator Cutter for listening to their concerns and bringing this important legislation.</p> <p>Colorado PTA strongly supports House Bill 25-1250.</p> <p>The first time I heard about schools providing information about the safe storage of firearms was during public comment at a school board meeting a few years ago. It made sense when I heard it then and it makes sense now.</p> <p>PTA has a long history of supporting sensible gun safety and gun violence prevention policies. This bill also requires collaboration</p>

	<p>between a state agency, schools, and families for the safety of all children which is another pillar of PTA’s values.</p> <p>By requiring access to materials created by the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and working in tandem with schools, we are putting vital information into the hands of parents and caregivers so they can learn how to safely store guns and ammunition, view current laws around guns, and more. This is a minimal-effort action that has the potential to have a high impact on how families protect their children from gun violence.</p> <p>As firearms are the leading cause of death in American children and teens, any action that has the possibility of reducing firearm-related deaths should be taken. Parents and families should have a simple way to access this type of information to make their homes as safe as possible for their children. Providing these valuable resources through school websites and school-based communication is an effective way to share impactful information in a streamlined manner.</p> <p>Colorado PTA Supports House Bill 1250. Thank you for your consideration of our position.</p>
<p>Leslie Obrien For themselves</p>	<p>I am here to testify on a lifesaving and common-sense bill - HB25-1250. My name is Leslie O’Brien, and I reside in 80023. My comments are my own.</p> <p>I am a parent who has been volunteering in the secure firearm storage education space since 2018. Whenever my kids visit another family for the first time, or a new friend comes to our home, I text the caregivers a list of safety questions and offer up information. The most important question to me is “How do you store your firearms?” This is important, as there are approximately 4.6 million US children living in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked gun . In the 7 years I have been asking this question, only once I have had any push back from another parent. Firearm owners know this fact -Secure Storage Saves Lives.</p> <p>So, why do we have an average of 84 children and teens dying from gun violence annually in Colorado ? Because teens and children have obtained access to an unsecured firearm. Kids should not be able to get their hands on a firearm without supervision- yet it is still happening. Even with the secure storage laws in homes and vehicles put into place by the Colorado Legislature children continue to be</p>

	<p>harmful by unsecured guns. The conclusion I draw, and have been working on, is Secure Storage Education.</p> <p>No parent is actively seeking to put their child in harm's way, but curious kids will find a way to access a "hidden" gun. In some instances, kids are instructed to "not touch" a firearm if they come across one in their home or elsewhere. While that is good advice, it is not a guarantee they will heed this warning. It is always the adult's responsibility to keep firearms out of children and teens hands. We need to educate as many adults as possible who are responsible for children's safety; this bill is the fastest and most efficient way to accomplish reach these adults and prevent unintentional gun deaths and injuries.</p> <p>The best part of this bill may be that, given the extremely challenging budget year Colorado is facing- it will cost virtually nothing. This education effort uses resources already in place on LetsTalkGunsColorado.org. Disseminating this information electronically to K-12 families will be at no cost to any school or district. Posting this information on the district and school websites also costs nothing.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to support HB25-1250 to prevent unintentional firearm deaths and injuries in Colorado.</p> <p>Thank you, Leslie O'Brien</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE RE: HB25-1250 Gun Violence Prevention &amp; Parents of Students 3-6-25 Sponsors: Hamrick, Cutter FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Springs Constituent VOTE: NO</p> <p>This is not the role of the State Legislature. This belongs in the local schools, and would need to be in tandem with the local law enforcement authority.</p> <p>Further, this bill violates the 2nd amendment as it is not the role of schools to teach weapons safety or training. This would be a private item.</p> <p>It is also not the roll of the state legislature to preach GUN Violence! Why are we not preaching Gun Safety if anything!</p> <p>Education is for academics. Not for 1st and 2nd amendment violations, VIA Social Justice venues which ignore the actual laws. There are many weapons safety training opportunities. In light of this</p>

	<p>legislature already violating too many 2nd amendment rights, I vote a hard NO for this bill.</p>
<p>Norah Krause For Students Demand Action</p>	<p>Hello my name is Norah Krause, I am writing to you today to express my extreme support for HB 25-1250. Gun violence is the number one killer of children and teens in America.</p> <p>The number one cause, something that should tell you already to pass this bill. But because it won't I am going to add a couple more things in this testimony, I think a four sentence testimony I s frowned upon.</p> <p>As the class of 2026 at East High School, my freshman year was inundated by multiple incidents of gun violence. Guns took three of my classmates' lives, physically harmed two of my deans, and caused psychological damage to my entire community. The community that some of you represent, but when it comes to gun violence, each and every one of you serve a community that is plagued by gun violence.</p> <p>This bill directly addresses the fact that children and teens, the people in schools, are the ones most affected by gun violence. Requiring the office of gun violence prevention to post the office's gun violence prevention materials in an accessible manner helps address that, according to research, 4.6 million children across America live in homes with at least one unlocked and loaded gun. It is crucial that parents and teachers understand the necessity for safe storage, extreme risk protection orders, protection orders, and more.</p> <p>And for those of you saying that we already give these support and provide these resources, no one actually reads them. Admittedly, being a 16 year old, I have never registered my kid to go to school, but I can imagine there is a good number of those boxes, and 99% of the time you check the box and move on. Requiring local education providers to provide the materials in a written or electronic format to students' parents, guardians, and legal custodians at the beginning of each school year and post the materials on the local education provider's website, it better ensures that these crucial and necessary resources are just being checked off</p>

	<p>and dismissed.</p> <p>For myself, for students, and for children and teens across Colorado. I urge you to vote yes on this bill. Thank you.</p>
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March 6, 2025

Regarding HB 1250

Thank you Madame Chair, I am Dr. Patty Meek, and I'm affiliated with Colorado Ceasefire (CC). I'm here to speak in support of House Bill 1250.

I have over 30 years' experience in education, having been a music teacher, a counselor, a school psychologist, and a special education teacher. I also taught graduate students in educational psychology, at University of Colorado, for 23 years.

That being said, there is a reason that Maslow's hierarchy of needs has so well stood the test of time. For Maslow, after physical needs have been addressed, the next most important need, for self-actualization, is *safety*. In the context of education, *safety* means that kids need to feel safe, in order to learn.

You may wonder if the act of schools' simply providing information about safe storage, on their website, might contribute to students' safety. Do parents care about this? Will they read it?? My experience, over the years, suggests that parents and students do access information on school websites and parents and students DO care. I have also personally witnessed the eagerness, for this type of information, both at a CC presentation to a group of local high school students *and* a presentation to parents and students, at my church.

Thus, I urge you to support HB 1250. Providing this information might help to avert a funeral I attended a number of years ago. There one of my favorite middle school students of all time, Jason, sobbed as he laid his older brother, Martin (age 15) to rest. His brother had been accidentally shot and killed by a friend who had accessed an unsecured weapon in his home.

Thank you for listening to me today. Information is key to solving many of the problems in our society, and together we really can make a difference.

*Patty Meek, Ph.D.*



## Testimony in Support of SB 25-1250 with a Call for Strengthening Measures

Good evening, Madam Chair and members of the committee. My name is **Marcella Schieffelin**. I live in Mesa County, and I'm speaking on my behalf. I support SB 25-1250 because firearm safety is a critical issue affecting every community in Colorado. This bill is an important first step in ensuring families have access to educational materials about safe firearm storage.

However, **education alone is not enough**. Research shows that simply providing information does not always lead to behavior change. According to the **Harvard School of Public Health**, **only 30% of gun owners who receive safety education store their firearms safely**. Compare that to the **60% of owners who implement safe storage when reinforced by laws and behavioral nudges**. We've seen this play out in other public safety efforts, like early child car seat campaigns, where initial awareness efforts had limited success—until **enforcement and accountability measures** were added.

**In Colorado, 76% of firearm deaths are suicides**, and research indicates that secure storage **reduces the risk of suicide and unintentional shootings by up to 85%**. But simply handing out educational materials won't get us there.

That's why I strongly urge this committee to **consider future improvements** to SB 25-1250, including:

- ✓ **Community engagement** to reinforce safe storage through trusted voices like doctors, teachers, and firearm owners.
- ✓ **Behavioral nudges** such as text reminders and safe storage incentive programs have been proven to increase compliance.
- ✓ **Peer reinforcement** and local partnerships to make safe storage the norm, not just a recommendation.

I support SB 25-1250 because it moves us in the right direction, but **we must do more** to make it effective. If we genuinely want to prevent **tragedies that are 100% preventable**, we must be willing to take the next step. I urge this committee to **pass SB 25-1250 today while committing to future improvements** that will ensure real, measurable change.

Thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions

<https://hsph.harvard.edu/injury-control/news/firearm-training-is-not-associated-with-safe-firearm-storage-practices/>

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/safe-and-secure-gun-storage>

<https://preventfirearmsuicide.efsgv.org/states/colorado/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15701912/>

<https://firearminjury.umich.edu/healthcare-safe-storage/>

<https://www.bradyunited.org/resources/issues/safe-storage>