

I am writing to oppose the proposed semi-automatic firearms ban.

I lived in California for 20 years and endured that state's anti-constitutional gun restrictions. This bill resembles much of California's ban on "assault weapons" that has created a myriad of laws that are almost impossible to follow for citizens and law enforcement alike, while at the same time having no effect at reducing the tragic shootings that this bill's authors claim to be trying to prevent. Study upon study has shown that so called "Assault Weapon Bans" have no correlation on the murder rate in a state. This evidence was also supported by studies on the efficacy of the Federal assault weapon ban which led to the Federal ban's sunset. It is worth remembering that the tragedy of Columbine occurred during the Federal ban on "assault weapons."

It is constantly being said that these types of firearms appeal to criminals and restricting them will reduce crime. This simply is not supported by the facts. FBI statistics show that firearms like the AR15 and civilian variants of the AK47 are used in a tiny fraction of homicides compared to ordinary handguns and one is even more likely to be murdered by someone with a knife or blunt object than an AR15. Additionally, the State of Colorado has already restricted "High-Capacity Magazines" and still Colorado politicians feel the need to continue to see more bans and restrictions.

These firearms do however appeal to millions of GOOD, HONORABLE, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS. I am one of those citizens. I am a college graduate, US Army Veteran of the Global War on Terror, volunteer Law Enforcement Officer, a father of two involved in the local school district, and captain for a major US Airline. There are millions more people like me who own these types of firearms than there are those bent upon evil.

This bill will place additional encumbrance on lawful citizens wishing to possess such firearms that many, including myself, consider **infringements**. It also puts additional responsibility on local law enforcement who are already overburdened dealing with crime. If this proposal was being made in good faith, then it would seem that a Colorado concealed handgun permit holder would satisfy the "enhanced background check" requirement, but no.

Finally, the Second Amendment was written to give "The People" a fighting chance against an invading army, criminal gangs, or a tyrannical government. The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the Amendment protects "Arms in Common Use." Current estimates suggest that there are more than 20 million AR15 rifles in lawful use in the US today plus an almost equal number of other types of firearms that would be affected by this ban. Such numbers clearly indicate that these firearms are "In Common Use," and that **this bill is clearly unconstitutional**.

All of us within the firearms community are outraged and concerned by every tragic shooting that occurs. We, however, strongly oppose the exploitation of these tragedies as a way to impose laws that have little to no efficacy at reducing crime, disproportionately affect peaceable and law abiding citizens, and are contrary to the very principles of our Nation's founding.

Sincerely,

Sergei Kasakow

Monument

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For reference see:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Gun Grab.

1 message

Ray Padgett <raypadgett54@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 3, 2025 at 6:50 AM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

stop this madness. Do you folks not understand the Second Amendment. You guys are wasting my taxpayer money. Your pursuing gun bills that even if passed, will be defeated in court. So it's a total waste of taxpayer money. Two fold. In all the time spent in pursuing this and in legal fees afterwards. Let's all hope that when DOGE gets the big stuff done at the federal level. They will start audits of the extreme waste at the state level. After that there needs to be a DOGE at every State overseeing each State and every City and County.

Ray Padgett

[20908 County Rd 28.5, Brush, CO 80723](#)



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

Message from Bob Fricke, FBI Retired: RE: SB25-003

2 messages

Bob Fricke <bob.fricke@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 10:33 PM

To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Cc: "rose.pugliese.house@coleg.gov" <rose.pugliese.house@coleg.gov>

Greetings -

I just spoke with a representative at your help desk. I waited 8 hours to testify via Zoom regarding SB25-003 and was denied the opportunity. At 10:00 pm, at the conclusion of on-line testimony the committee chair said there was no one in the waiting room and on-line testimony was to conclude. I tried to raise my hand with no effect.

At any rate, I am a retired FBI Special Agent and vehemently oppose passage of SB 25 0003. As a retired FBI Agent I continue to serve as I carry a concealed weapon under the auspices of HR 218. Although I am in a special category aside from the 2nd Amendment issues brought up by the majority of the citizens, the fact that no consideration for how Colorado laws would impact retired law enforcement under HR 218 shows me that the people creating this bill are moving ahead without proper vetting of a myriad of issues that would be affected by this bill.

I also wanted to testify to the fact that a huge proportion of illegally obtained firearms continually streams from weapons stolen from national guard armories, and active US military installations. There may be more of these weapons in the hands of criminals than legally purchased weapons. Your bill does not even address this fact and I doubt anyone has looked into it.

While I waited to testify, I heard a female representative question a witness as to why the witness would object to laws that "slowed down" potential mass murders from acquiring weapons. To hear an elected official ask such a question made me realize how ignorant some of our elected officials really are when it comes to understanding the Constitution. Take away Constitutional rights of law abiding citizens to "slow down" a homicidal maniac? That woman should be impeached and removed from office. She also stated that law enforcement officials should not interpret the Constitution but simply follow the orders handed down by the legislature. Every tyrant in history would have loved and agreed with her statement.

The icing on the cake was hearing a witness for the bill passage, Dr. Eric D. Nelson, representing the Mothers Against Gun Violence, admit that the manner in which the Colorado legislature was ramming this bill through for passage was similar to the way Southern legislatures passed Jim Crow Laws in the 19th and 20th centuries. If it wasn't so tragic I'd still be laughing.

I am exhausted and still must prepare for closing things down after wasting an entire day unsuccessfully attempting to exercise my Constitutional right. I would ask that you consider my statement in this message and if it lacks coherence please contact me and let me further discuss after I've had a chance to sleep and re-charge after such a horrible, wasted day.

Regards,

Bob Fricke 719-930-2085

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

Wed, Mar 12, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: Bob Fricke <bob.fricke@gmail.com>

Bob,

I apologize for this occurrence and I have reached out our IT team to get more information about why this occurred. I have received this written testimony and shared it with the committee.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Burger

3/12/25, 8:00 AM

Colorado General Assembly Mail - Message from Bob Fricke, FBI Retired: RE: SB25-003

Legislative Council Staff

[Quoted text hidden]



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

Oppose SB25-003

1 message

Don Garman <garman50@gmail.com>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 1:11 PM

Dear Senators Sullivan, Gonzales

Dear Representatives Boesenecker, Froelich

You four have sponsored SB25-003 and I must ask why. Have you never had a need for self-protection for you or a loved one ?

I am 81 years old and travel by car with my wife who is 83. We used to drag a 35 ft. Fifth Wheel but no longer. On two experiences I can remember, one with the fifth wheel, I felt comfortable knowing that I had the ability to stop ill deeds against me and my wife while traveling at night without anyone nearby coming to our aid. I carry a 9mm hand gun for protection in these cases, and as I have learned through courses, NRA and others, and the law, that a weapon is not something to bring to bear unless I feel your life has been threatened. You don't start things with the gun unless you are a criminal.

I have held CCP's in two states; South Carolina and Colorado. I was an ARMY Weapons/Rifle instructor (Range NCO) and by my count trained close to nine-thousand young trainees and they mostly went to Vietnam. I am experienced with gun safety, proper handling of weapons, storage requirements, and the need for insurance long before Colorado even considered passing legislation. If I didn't go to the range regularly or felt I was otherwise incapable of using and owning a hand gun, I would dispose of it legally. This new legislation you are proposing would make that damn difficult.

My concern with this piece of legislation is that it is written by emotion and not need. Basically, if this bill passes, it would be the end of my ability to provide self-protection for me and wife of 59 years. I would have to start over at square one. Why should I have to start at the beginning.

I am strongly opposed to SB25-003.

Donald Garman

[4135 Crittenton Lane, Unit 1](#)

[Wellington, CO 80549-2324](#)

 **Oppose SB25-003.docx**
16K



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

re: Senate Bill 25-003

1 message

Michael Smith <rmsmith@newfields.com>

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM

To: "chad.clifford.house@coleg.gov" <chad.clifford.house@coleg.gov>, "Governor\\"" <Governorpoli@state.co.us>

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

Messrs Clifford and Polis:

I am writing in response to the Senate Bill 25-003, current up for vote in the Colorado house. Though I am appreciative of the adjustments that Governor Polis put into the bill prior to the Senate vote, the bill still limits my second amendment rights to bear arms of my choosing.

In the interest of an editorial approach to my message to the Colorado legislature, I believe that the guns that you are considering further restriction for are not the problem, the mentally ill person operating them is the issue. I am aware that this bill was initiated by Senator Sullivan and I am also aware that Senator Sullivan lost his son in the Aurora Theatre shooting, a tragic heartbreaking reality.

The logic that is applied to further regulation of rifles and handguns with detachable clips will not produce the result that you are seeking. Using that logic might also be applied to vehicular mass murders such as the one that occurred in January in New Orleans (14 dead and over 50 injured), so why are you not considering the mental state or criminal background of would be motorists when they apply for a driver's license? The answer to that question is simple, you all own a vehicle and having to succumb a mental fitness test to operate that vehicle is an inconvenience that you would prefer not to have to complete. It would also negatively affect your political aspirations with your constituency.

There is no wonder that we have a mental illness problem in our society when social media platforms that exist are constantly bombarding us with out of context factoids that frankly push people over the edge. Commentators on those platforms have no regard for how their commentary might affect consumers of that information. Maybe a more effective approach to get the result you desire, is to punish those that broadcast the half-truths to the consuming public, maybe address bullying out of our public schools (though a no tolerance stance) or possibly take video games off of the market that desensitize, those that use them, to the gravity of death. These are just a few elements that the Colorado legislature could easily address that might improve the mental health issues in Colorado.

I will close with this comment. According to USA Today in 2016, over half of the deaths from terror attacks internationally occurred through the use of a vehicle. So ask yourself, why don't we regulate who gets a driver's license?? Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Best Regards,

Mike Smith



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

SB25-003 Against

1 message

nathaniel wenger <npwenger87@gmail.com>
To: LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 5:48 PM

Please read my entire statement

I, as a Coloradoan for 90% of my life. As taxpayer, that pays my states politicians salary, and a free American, I am fully against every part of this bill!

Here is my reasoning: This INFRINGES my Constitutional Rights, this INFRINGES my Second Amendment completely! No where in the Second Amendment does it limit (Type or Number of) what Arms (Firearms) that WE THE PEOPLE can Bear, and own.

With my Statement of the Second Amendment above, SB25-003 changes my Second Amendment right, a God given right (Arming myself, protecting others, my family, my property, and myself is apart of my Religious beliefs) into a privilege that I would also have to pay for! That in itself INFRINGES my Right to Bear Arms. SB25-003 is not only Unconstitutional, but TREASONOUS by its creators, and supporters.

Laws are created for Law Abiding people, CRIMINALS will NEVER follow them, that is why they are criminals. Maybe focus on cleaning up the crime in the streets, instead of Infringing Law Abiding peoples Rights, and by turning US into criminals. I will tell you two facts. One: This will NOT prevent gun crime, or evil acts carried out by cowards. Two: This will create a more dangerous bread of Outlaw because it will force Law Abiding people to become the Outlaw just to continuing their right to protect themselves.

I have been around firearms my whole life, and carry everyday including professionally. Your idea of a non-detachable magazine in all semi-automatic firearms is unsafe-firearm NIGHTMARE! Having to rack the slide/bolt carrier to the rear every single time to empty a loaded firearm is not efficient or safe for the user, and Law Enforcement if they need to make the firearm safe; meaning separate the ammunition from the firearm. Instead of being able to eject the magazine out of the firearm and rack the slide to the rear (ejecting the round out of the chamber. The handler of the firearm would have to rack the slide/Bolt Carrier to the rear, ejecting each round one at a time until empty....which takes the focus off your surroundings.

I want peace! I want to be left alone, and I want our firearms to left alone. SB25-003 will makes it harder for me to defend myself, and family effectively. I don't live in the cities, but I visit. Mountains and country side living has its own problems of security and this will impact my ability to protect my loved ones, property, and myself. FOID cards dont prevent criminals, it makes it harder for Law Abiding people. The Bills passed against firearms in Colorado has not prevented crime, criminals using firearms, or made communities safer. Denver, and surroundings cities are not safer, and crime is incredibly worse. Criminals do not follow laws, and they will have the upper hand in enforcing their will upon YOUR citizens that elected you. That bloods on you!

Freedom comes with some dangers, but it's not as dangerous as tyranny.



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

SB25-003

1 message

Geoff <farnaway@comcast.net>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 5:11 PM

I'm vehemently opposed to this bill. It's a waste of time and will never hold up against our constitution.
Please vote against it.

Geoff Gray
President
Far & Away Studios, Inc.
[https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.farnawaystudios.com__;!!N3hutN9gVC0oIVTJNA!
VbYqrrtW0KWGWqZp6tje5ciW2xdKHEK4eL4VRY1oVvZ9njHhJv_90ZbYi6ZV3uz4nAtKkcc2Xu9_Td5w9CqytAxDAY0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.farnawaystudios.com__;!!N3hutN9gVC0oIVTJNA!VbYqrrtW0KWGWqZp6tje5ciW2xdKHEK4eL4VRY1oVvZ9njHhJv_90ZbYi6ZV3uz4nAtKkcc2Xu9_Td5w9CqytAxDAY0$)
303 494 6800.

Sent from my iPhone



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

Written testimony for senate bill 25-003

1 message

RICK CORBITT <zetroc2@msn.com>

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 9:10 AM

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

I am adamantly against senate bill 25-003. I believe all this bill will do is put more burdens on law abiding citizens. How many criminals do you believe will adhere to this law by going to classes or checking in with their county sheriff? This is nothing more than another poorly disguised attempt to hinder the Second Amendment by those opposed to it.

Our Parks and Wildlife Division and our local law enforcement are already undermanned and underfunded and this bill would make the situation worse. It also allows an anti-Second Amendment sheriff to stop anyone from being able to purchase these firearms for any reason they chose.

This bill will do nothing to make us safer and will only place unnecessary costs and time losses on all of those involved, except of course, those politicians pushing for its passage.

Thank you,

Rick Corbitt

Dolores, CO

Opposition to Colorado Senate Bill 25-003: A Clear and Present Threat to Public Safety and Individual Liberties.

Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003) proposes restrictions on the sale, transfer, and possession of semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices, purportedly in the name of public safety. However, this bill is fundamentally flawed and counterproductive. It will not only fail to achieve its intended purpose of reducing gun violence but will also undermine public safety, erode constitutional rights, and create a dangerous precedent that strips citizens of their ability to defend themselves and their communities.

I. SB25-003 Endangers Public Safety Rather Than Protecting It.

The fundamental premise of this bill is that restricting the ownership and transfer of semiautomatic firearms will lead to a reduction in violent crime. However, historical and contemporary data from other states and nations suggest that such restrictive measures disproportionately harm law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter criminal activity.

1. Criminals Do Not Follow Gun Laws

- The bill primarily targets law-abiding gun owners who purchase firearms legally. Criminals, by definition, do not abide by gun regulations.
- Restricting semiautomatic firearms will not prevent criminals from acquiring them through illegal means, such as the black market, straw purchases, or theft.
- The War on Drugs demonstrated that prohibition does not eliminate demand; instead, it drives criminal enterprises to meet that demand illegally. Gun control policies have historically resulted in the same effect—an increase in illicit firearms trafficking.

2. Disarming Law-Abiding Citizens Leaves Society More Vulnerable to Violent Crime

- In states and cities with stringent gun control laws (e.g., Chicago, Washington D.C.), violent crime rates have remained significantly high, often exceeding those of less restrictive regions.
- Studies consistently show that areas with legally armed citizens experience lower rates of violent crime because criminals fear encountering an armed defender.
- By restricting semiautomatic firearms, SB25-003 creates a power imbalance, where only criminals, law enforcement, and a select few exempt groups retain access to these weapons.

3. Rapid Response to Violent Threats Becomes Impossible

- Law enforcement response times vary drastically, and in emergency situations, seconds matter.
- Citizens rely on legally owned firearms to protect themselves from imminent threats, including home invasions, armed robberies, and assaults.
- Banning access to common semiautomatic firearms makes self-defense significantly more difficult, leaving individuals—particularly vulnerable populations such as women, the elderly, and those in rural areas—at the mercy of criminals.

II. SB25-003 Violates Fundamental Constitutional and Human Rights

1. A Direct Assault on the Second Amendment

- The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution explicitly states that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."
- The Supreme Court has upheld that firearm ownership is a fundamental right for self-defense, resistance to tyranny, and participation in a well-regulated militia (**D.C. v. Heller, 2008; McDonald v. City of Chicago, 2010**).
- SB25-003 directly undermines these constitutional protections by criminalizing the purchase and transfer of commonly owned firearms.

2. The Right to Self-Preservation and Bodily Autonomy is a Human Right

- The ability to defend oneself, one's family, and one's property is an inherent human right recognized throughout history and across legal systems.
- Governments exist to protect fundamental freedoms, not to strip citizens of the means to exercise those freedoms.
- By disarming law-abiding citizens while maintaining government control over weapons, this bill creates a power imbalance that contradicts the principles of a free and sovereign people.

III. SB25-003 Sets a Dangerous Precedent for Government Overreach

1. Gradual Erosion of Rights Leads to Authoritarianism

- History is replete with examples of governments incrementally restricting firearm ownership as a precursor to expanded state control.
- Nations such as Venezuela, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union implemented strict gun control before suppressing civil liberties and enabling authoritarian rule.
- If we permit this level of restriction today, it paves the way for future, even more draconian gun control measures under the guise of public safety.

2. The Bill Grants Government Arbitrary Power Over Who Can Defend Themselves

- The bill selectively exempts certain groups, including law enforcement and military personnel, creating a two-tiered system of rights.
- Why should a police officer or government official be allowed to own a semiautomatic firearm, but a private citizen cannot?
- The framers of the Constitution recognized that the people must retain the same level of armament as the state to prevent tyranny and ensure government accountability.

IV. The Unintended Consequences of SB25-003

1. Financial and Legal Burdens on Law-Abiding Citizens

- The bill's passage would criminalize ordinary gun owners who legally purchase and transfer firearms today.
- Legal challenges and bureaucratic red tape would disproportionately affect those who cannot afford high-priced attorneys to navigate the new restrictions.
- Gun retailers, shooting ranges, and gunsmiths would suffer severe economic damage, leading to job losses and business closures.

2. Police Will Face Increased Challenges

- Disarming the general population does not eliminate firearms; it merely consolidates them in the hands of criminals.
- Law enforcement officers will find themselves outgunned in a society where only criminals have access to semiautomatic firearms.
- The bill diverts law enforcement resources toward persecuting gun owners instead of targeting violent criminals.

Conclusion: SB25-003 is a Direct Attack on Public Safety and Individual Freedom

Rather than making Colorado safer, SB25-003 places innocent people at risk, emboldens criminals, and strips away fundamental human rights. It is based on a flawed premise that restricting firearm access will reduce crime, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Instead of passing ineffective and unconstitutional gun control laws, Colorado lawmakers should focus on targeting violent criminals, strengthening mental health initiatives, and enforcing existing laws that punish illegal firearm use.

SB25-003 is not just a misguided policy; it is a dangerous step toward government overreach, disarmament, and the erosion of constitutional rights. We must oppose this bill to protect not only our Second Amendment rights but the fundamental human right to self-defense and liberty.

My name is Grant Cramer, and I am a junior at East High School and the co-president of East Students Demand Action. I am just 16 years old, and I've already survived three shootings. Only in America is this considered normal. Only in America do guns kill more children and teens than cancer or drunk driving combined. Only in America does gun violence define the high school experience. For 16 years, I have watched the endless cycle of mass shootings dominate the news, each tragedy fading into the background as the next one takes its place. Nothing ever changes. And unless you choose to act now to end gun violence, students like me will continue to suffer and die because of political inaction. When I dreamed about high school, I imagined pep rallies, sports games, and late-night study sessions. I never imagined walking past blood-stained concrete where a classmate was shot. I never imagined hiding in a dark closet for hours, trembling as SWAT teams armed with military-grade weapons evacuated our school. I never imagined standing around a memorial in stunned silence, grieving the loss of a schoolmate. And I never imagined the sound of gunshots echoing through my school hallways. But these are the realities students like me face every day. Across the country, we live the same nightmare. Our dreams of a safe, normal high school experience have been stolen. Instead, we wake up every morning wondering if today will be the day we don't make it back home. Will the intercom announce a lockdown or just the upcoming school dance? I shouldn't have to be here. Ending gun violence shouldn't be a partisan issue, yet it's been treated as one. I'm not here to take away anyone's guns, nor am I part of some political agenda. I believe in the right to own guns, but I also believe in the right to live. When dangerous gun attachments and firearms paired with high-capacity magazines are contributing to the deaths of over 40,000 Americans every year, something must change. That's why I am urging you to pass this bill. A vote in favor of this bill will strengthen Colorado's existing gun laws and restrict access to firearms that accept high-capacity magazines, the same magazines used in the Club Q, Aurora, and STEM school shootings. A vote against this bill is a vote to enable organized crime and violence. To those of you considering voting no, I ask: How do you sleep at night? How do you listen to the stories of survivors, parents, and children people like me and still do nothing to prevent future tragedies? The time to act is now. You have the power to make a difference. Pass this bill and help put an end to the nightmare that has defined my generation.

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 Annelly 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

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.

To the assembled members of the House Judiciary Committee, 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.

There is also the matter of Amendment L.041, which was added to the bill late in the evening of the Second Reading within the Senate. This creates a license to buy exemption for the would-be banned firearms. This creates some fairly severe Constitutional questions surrounding requiring permission to exercise a right guaranteed by the Constitution, but there are practical issues with the proposition. There is no requirement that any of the infrastructure, processes, policies, or procedures be completely in place for the law to go into affect, and there is also no concessions given to any of the organizations that would suddenly have to support training and licensing for this program. Further, there are no guaranteed protections for those wishing to complete these steps to purchase these firearms, such as strict monetary limitations for charged fees or requirements for any step in the process to be completed in a timely manner. It also ignores that CCP holders, with the new increases in licensing requirements, are not exempt despite having as much or more training and background checks than this bill would impose.

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. The bill's supporters have tried to argue that this bill is Constitutional, but their prime argument seems to revolve around the fact that no right is considered unlimited. The argument that has to be made in this case, however, is not if the right is unlimited, but how the proposed limitations are in line with the text and history of the Second Amendment, as well as SCOTUS rulings on the subject.

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.

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

Author: Lawrence Desjardin, Steamboat Springs, CO

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

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

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

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

Estimating the number of firearms by type in the United States

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

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

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

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

Estimating gun-related deaths by firearm type - homicides

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

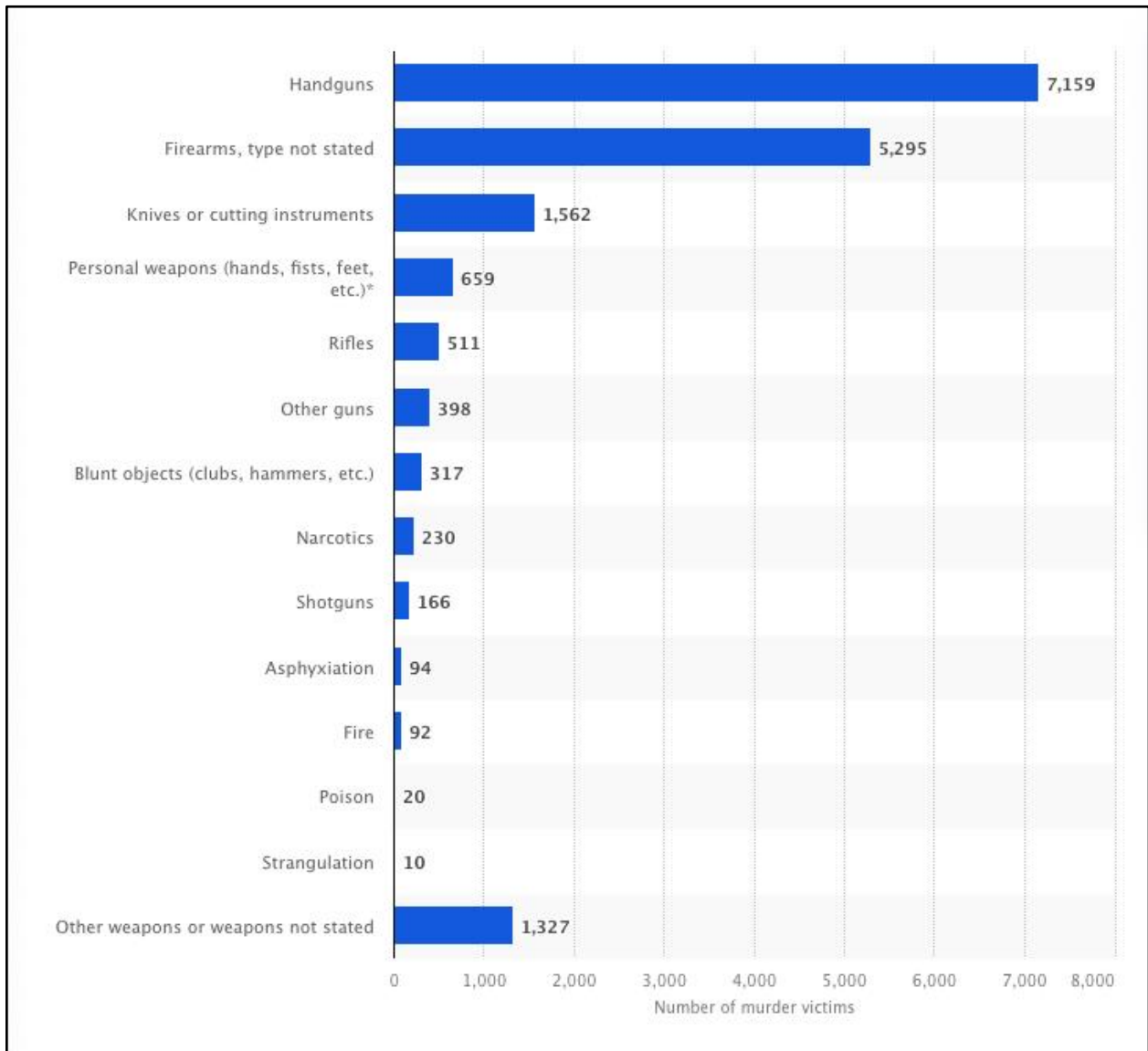


Figure 2 shows number of murder victims in the United States in 2023, by weapon used.

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

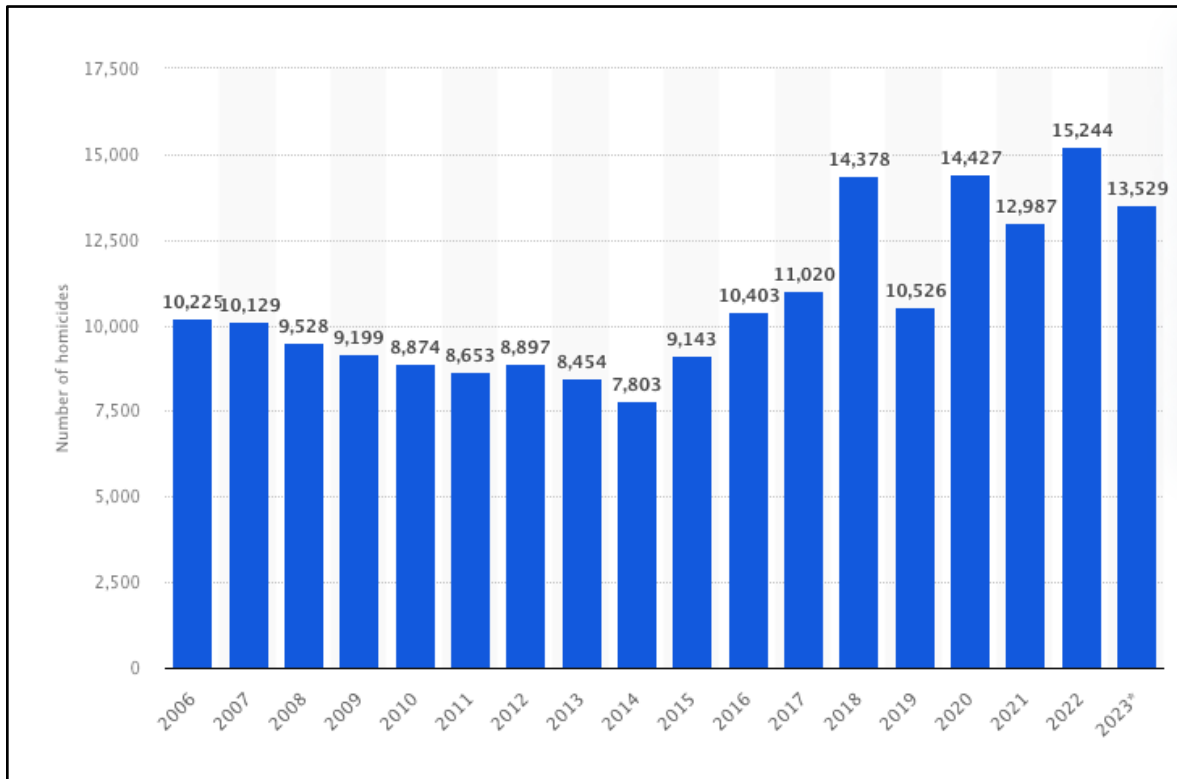


Figure 3 shows number of homicides by firearm in the United States from 2006 to 2023

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

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

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

Estimating gun-related deaths by firearm type – suicides

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

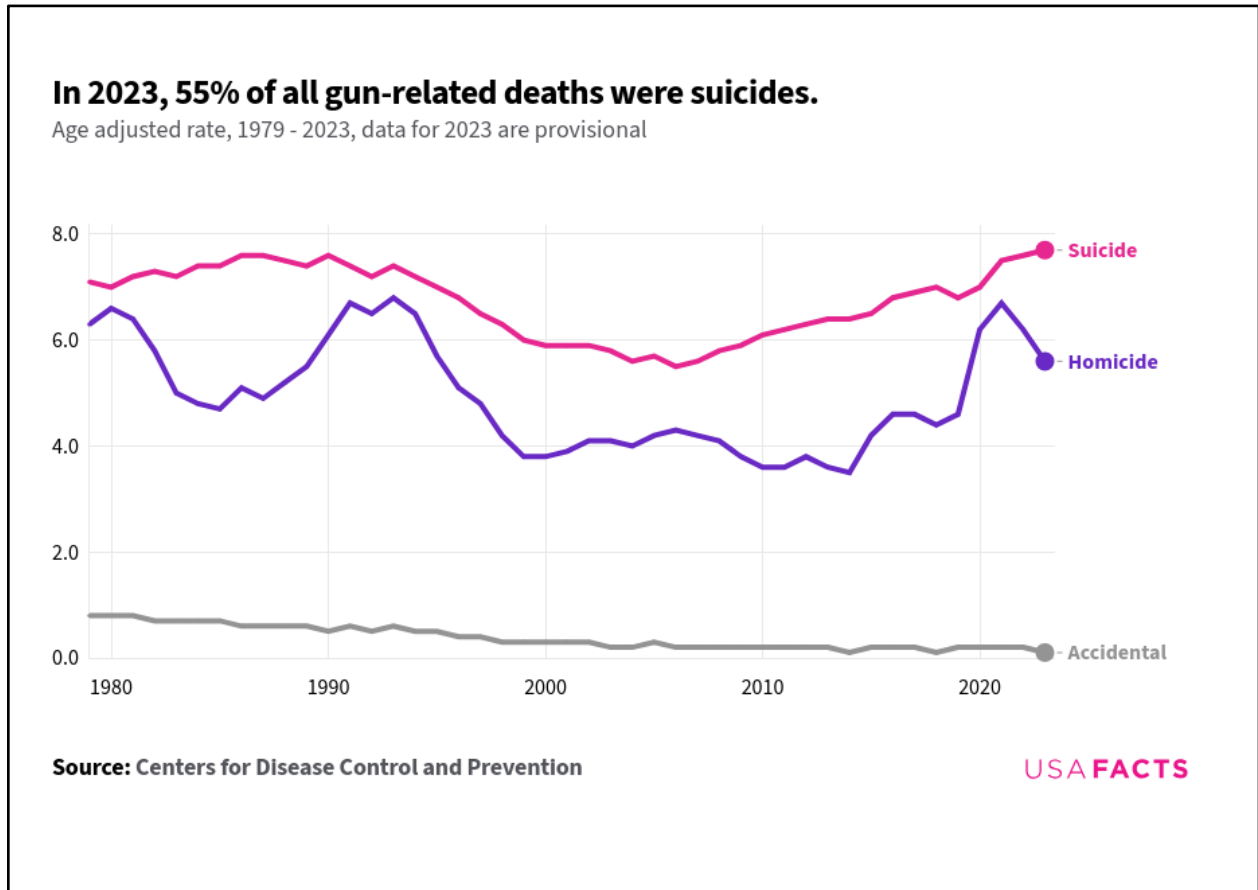


Figure 5 shows in the year 2023 the gun-related suicide rate was 7.7 per 100,000 while the gun-related homicide rate was 5.6 per 100,000.

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

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

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

Estimating gun-related death rate by firearm type

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This exercise expands Figure 8 to the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 6 is shown below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Numerical Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Error Sensitivity Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

Observations, Conclusions, and Implications for SB25-003

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

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

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

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

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

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

References

Number and types of firearms in the United States

Firearm Production in the United States

Source: NSSF (National Shooting Sports Foundation)

Production and installed base data for Year 2021

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

The Number and Type of Private Firearms in the United States

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

Berrigan et al

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

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

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

Source: The Trace

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

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

Gun deaths by firearm type

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

Source: Statista, FBI

Shows FBI data of 2023 homicides by weapon used

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

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

Source: Statista, FBI

Total firearm homicides by year

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

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

Source: Statista, FBI

Percentage of all homicides committed by firearms per year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Examined the type of firearm used in suicides

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

Preferences for Firearms and Their Implications for Regulation

Source: Becker Friedman Institute for Economics at University of Chicago

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

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

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

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

Author: Lawrence Desjardin, Steamboat Springs, CO

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

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

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

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

Estimating the number of firearms by type in the United States

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

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

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

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

Estimating gun-related deaths by firearm type - homicides

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

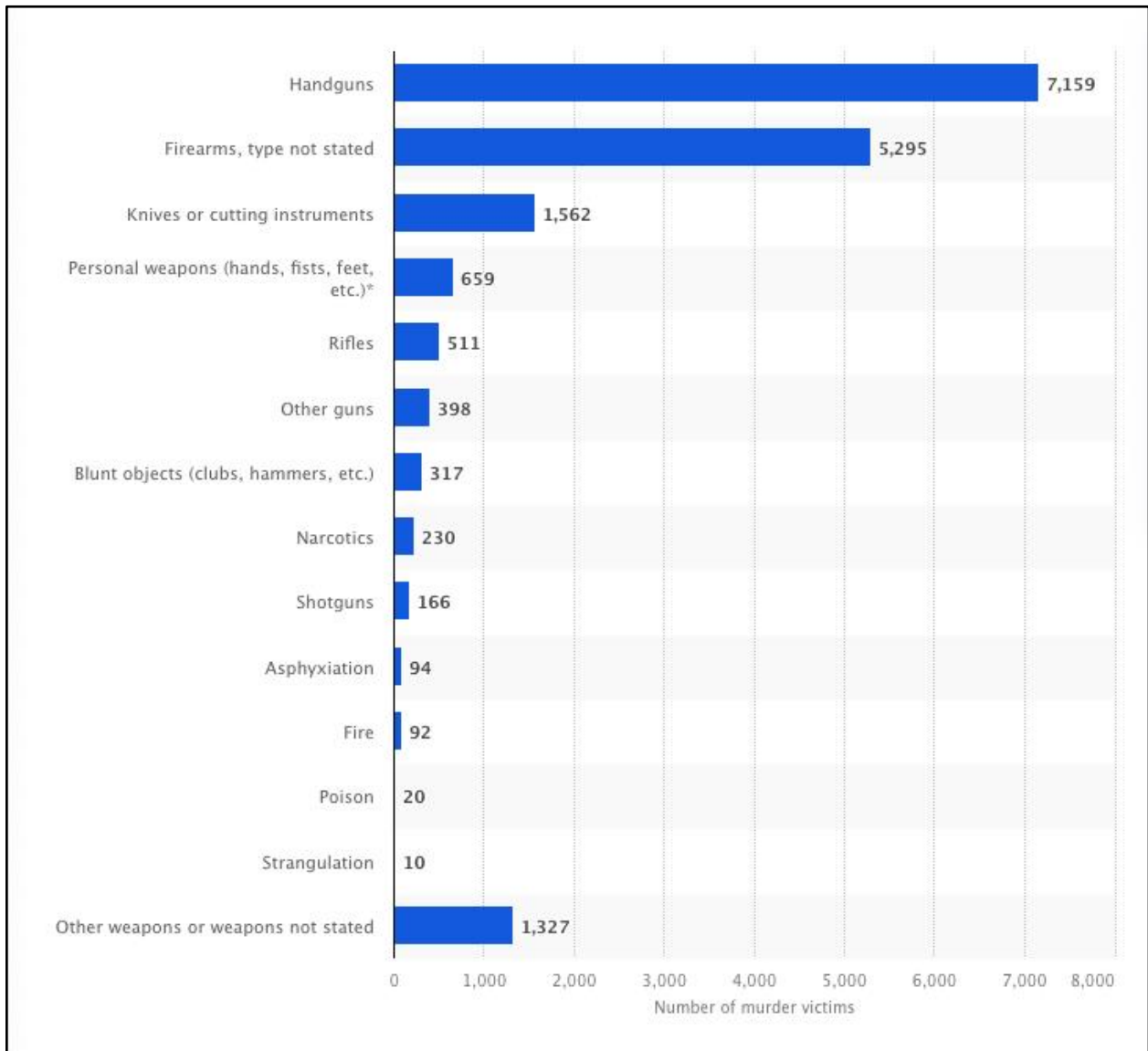


Figure 2 shows number of murder victims in the United States in 2023, by weapon used.

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

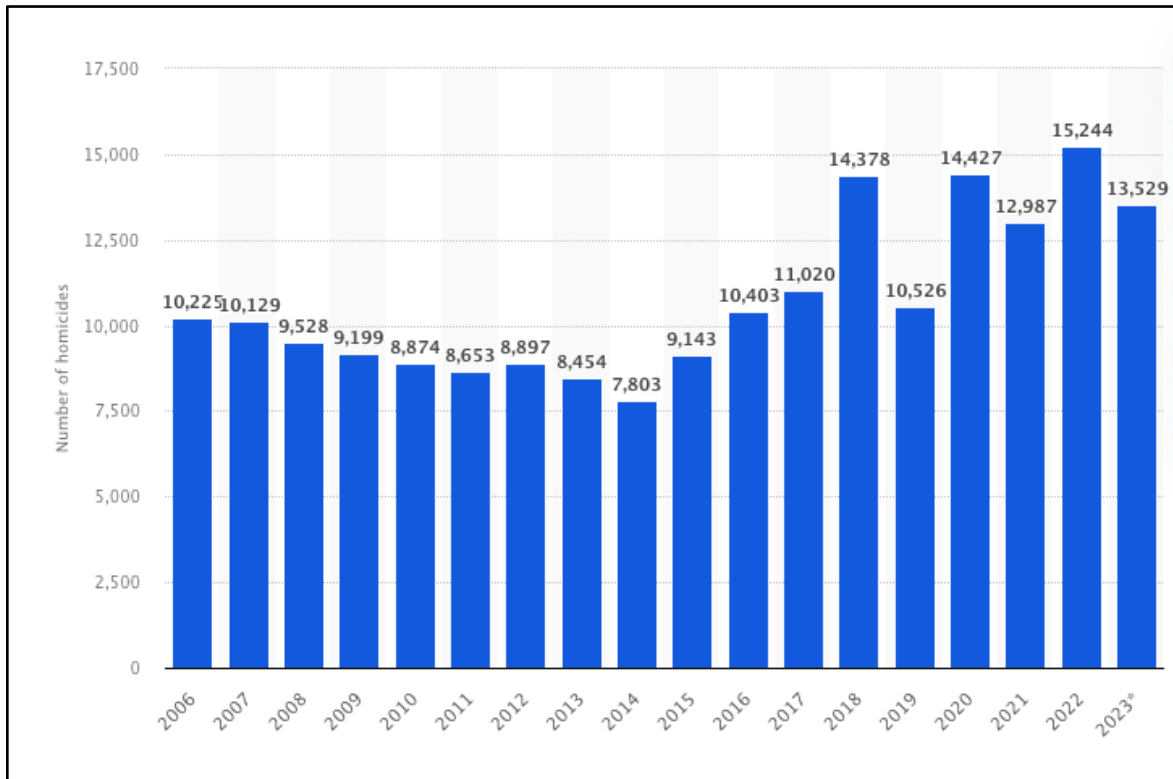


Figure 3 shows number of homicides by firearm in the United States from 2006 to 2023

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

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

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

Estimating gun-related deaths by firearm type – suicides

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

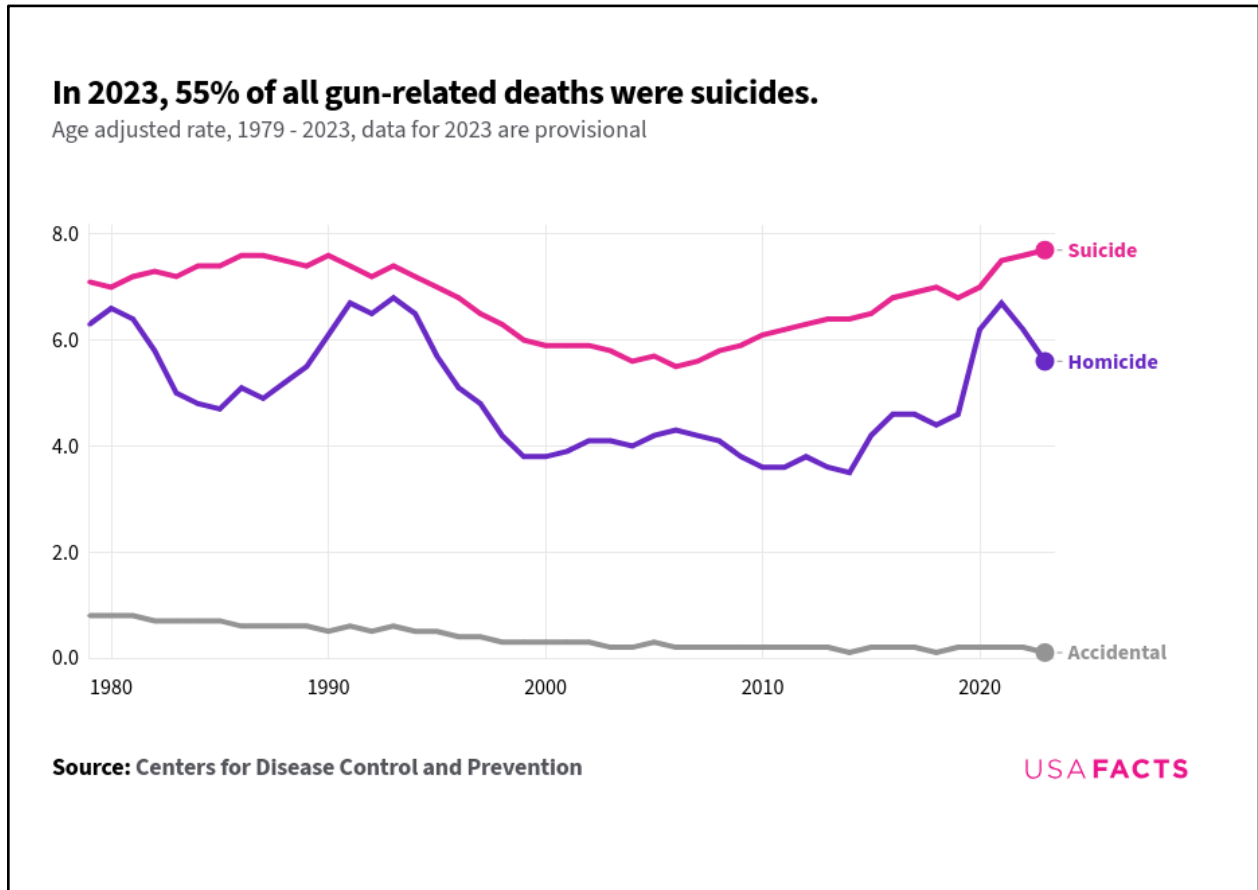


Figure 5 shows in the year 2023 the gun-related suicide rate was 7.7 per 100,000 while the gun-related homicide rate was 5.6 per 100,000.

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

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

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

Estimating gun-related death rate by firearm type

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This exercise expands Figure 8 to the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 6 is shown below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Numerical Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Error Sensitivity Analysis

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

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

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

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

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

Observations, Conclusions, and Implications for SB25-003

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

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

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

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

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

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

References

Number and types of firearms in the United States

Firearm Production in the United States

Source: NSSF (National Shooting Sports Foundation)

Production and installed base data for Year 2021

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

The Number and Type of Private Firearms in the United States

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

Berrigan et al

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

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

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

Source: The Trace

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

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

Gun deaths by firearm type

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

Source: Statista, FBI

Shows FBI data of 2023 homicides by weapon used

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

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

Source: Statista, FBI

Total firearm homicides by year

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

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

Source: Statista, FBI

Percentage of all homicides committed by firearms per year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Examined the type of firearm used in suicides

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Preferences for Firearms and Their Implications for Regulation

Source: Becker Friedman Institute for Economics at University of Chicago

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

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

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

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 were 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 a 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. John Lott, in the article cited below, 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).

Please see the Firearms Coalition of Colorado Information Sheet on Mr. Lott’s work.

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

I wanted to first apologize for not being present, I had a mandatory lunch presentation at work.

My name is Beth Stone, and I am here today as an advocate for my husband, Ryan Stone. I want to share our story in support of HB 25-1206, which addresses extreme indifference offenses that do not result in death.

In 2014, my husband was convicted of first-degree assault. Due to Colorado's sentencing structure, he was sentenced to the max of 48 years, charged as a habitual offender despite having no prior violent offenses, and given consecutive sentences which resulted in a 160-year prison sentence.

When people hear of attempted first-degree murder, they assume it's a more serious and violent charge. In my husband's case, he was acquitted of that charge and instead convicted of first-degree assault, an offense that carries more time. Yet he still received a sentence longer than many who have committed murder. In Colorado sentencing laws sometimes result in first degree assault receiving a harsher sentence than attempted murder, especially when the habitual offender enhancements apply, this is what happened my husband's case.

After his arrest, Ryan quickly recognized that he needed to change his life. Since then, he has:

- Maintained 11 years of sobriety,
- Completed every DOC class available,
- Become a master dog handler training service dogs,
- Served as a mentor to his peers,
- Earned his certification as a CrossFit CFL1,
- Participated in victim advocacy and restorative justice programs,
- And most importantly, taken full accountability for his actions.

He frequently speaks about his victims and acknowledges the lasting impact of his crime. He carries that responsibility with him every day.

I am not here to claim that Ryan is innocent or that he doesn't deserve to serve time. He does. But sentences like his of 160 years remove any real opportunity for rehabilitation to lead to a second chance. People inside the system can grow, they are redeemable, and many take full responsibility for their actions. However, excessively long sentences often prevent them from ever proving that to society.

Colorado's Incarceration Rates

To provide context, Colorado has an incarceration rate of 556 per 100,000 people, which is higher than that of most democratic countries. This high rate is not solely due to violent crimes but also reflects the impact of sentencing policies that impose disproportionately long sentences for certain offenses.

I fully support law and order and believe in consequences for criminal actions. However, handing out sentences that extend beyond a lifetime does not make our communities safer. It does not provide justice when individuals convicted of murder are serving significantly less time.

I urge you to pass this bill not only for those who may be affected by it in the future but also for the countless families who may become affected by these extreme sentencing laws. What we've endured has been devastating, and no one should be denied the chance to demonstrate that they have changed. We need fairer sentencing guidelines, ones that allow for redemption and growth.

Thank you for your time.

Beth Stone

303.656.6738

Honorable Judicial Committee,

As a fellow Coloradan, I want to strongly urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003. Senate Bill 25-003 bans so-called "specified semiautomatic firearms." 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.

I am a military Special Operations veteran and have spent a good part of my life living daily with these types of weapons. They are not any more dangerous than any other firearm. What makes them dangerous is the owner of the trigger finger.

The passage of this bill through the Senate represents the anti-gun caucus's flagrant willingness to infringe the rights guaranteed by the very Constitution they've all sworn to uphold. This gun ban disguised as a "mechanism of enforcement for an existing high-capacity magazine ban" would restrict access to many of the most popular firearms.

Now, as amended, the state would require a permit to purchase these firearms, which would require law-abiding gun owners to pay for both the permit and the necessary classes. Requiring lawful gun owners to pay for access is placing a tax on the ability to exercise Second Amendment rights. The arduous requirement of training, testing, and certification will fall upon our already strained law enforcement and take away resources that could be used to fight real crime. Allowing law enforcement to arbitrarily decide who is permitted to purchase these firearms is a violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Law enforcement needs to focus on providing essential services and address the criminal element.

For a state with a rural population that depends on revenue from hunting and shooting sports, current legislation is very unfriendly towards gun owners. It is especially confusing for the thousands of non-resident hunters who provide state funding through license fees and small business patronage.

This bill unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners and does nothing to combat or prevent violent crime in our state. Gun violence is not a gun problem but a people problem. A gun is an inanimate object and its use for good or evil is determined by the one who holds it. More laws will only serve to burden those who choose to follow them, bad actors do not follow the laws so there will be no effect on them. As much as we think that legislative mandates "force compliance," all humans have free will and cannot be forced to do or not do anything. Murder is already illegal. Let's work on the root problem, mental health, and not the symptoms. I grew up in a rural environment where it was common for high schoolers to have firearms in our vehicle at school for hunting after classes. No one even considered using them for anything else. What has changed?

Again, I ask you to oppose SB 25-003 that will cause more burdens on the good citizens and law enforcement and have no effect on alleviating gun violence.

Richard Stefanko
880 Legend Oak Dr.
Fountain, CO 80817

House Judiciary

03/11/2025 Upon Adjournment

SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Thomas Ross Against themselves	<p>Hi my name is Thomas Ross,</p> <p>I am a resident of Colorado and have been for my entire life. I have watched this state change quite a bit over time. Some bad, some good, but this bill will definitely be for the WORSE. This bill bans anything that takes a magazine. My hunting rifle takes a magazine. My .22 rifle that my kids use to shoot cans for fun takes a magazine. The amount of firearms that this bill would ban is literally endless. I know it says that Law Enforcement could still purchase them but they could not....because gun stores would not be able to sell them. This bill would disarm law abiding citizens from protecting themselves and the people they care about in a MASSIVE way that you dont understand. It would deprive the young single mom a way to defend her kids or herself in any situation that she would fall victim too. I heard that one sponsor of this bill said to "use super glue to affix the magazine to the firearm".....that is insane!! Do you think that people who don not obey laws will superglue their magazines to their guns? That is not a rational person talking at all. This bill is littered with errors in firearm knowledge. This bill is also very unconstitutional. It violates every persons second amendment right to bear arms. This bill would virtually kill the firearm and hunting industry in this state. Which means more lost jobs and tax money too. I know many local places that would go out of business with this bill. I know a manager and a VERY large sporting good store in the northern CO area that said if this bill passes they will have to shutdown an entire department of the store and some employees will have to be transferred to another states store just because there would be no place for them. Which is just another example of how this would cost the loss of jobs and there for tax dollars which I know the government needs to fund projects. Also I know a gun tax bill just passed last year....now they are trying to ban virtually all firearms....why have the tax bill anyways?? It makes me angry that the people who sponsored this bill did not think about any of the impact to the people. Only that it would make them "look good" because they are trying to make something that they think is harmful to their small community illegal versus looking at how it would impact the ENTIRE state of Colorado.</p> <p>Please vote NO on this bill. It would do way more harm to the people of Colorado than good. Please get educated on firearms bills from people in the industry before you vote on any bills that impact those said firearms so you can make an INFORMED decision. Even if it is against what those firearm educators would want you to do.</p> <p>From a concerned Citizen</p>

	Thomas Ross
<p>Edgar Arellano-Bernal Against themselves</p>	<p>Good evening I strongly urge you to vote no on SB25-003 as all the amendments given still are an intrusion to our second amendment which is a right not a privilege it is a right as proof of the lack of care and respect for our second amendment by the sponsors I urge you to view Tom Sullivan outburst where he states citizen petitions are trash and is later interviewed by the news and lies about director Ian Escalante from RMGO being rude and shouting which is the complete opposite this is not a bill about weapon safety or magazine restrictions but is now a bill to strip us of our second amendment various firearms will be banned owning magazine will be criminal and the requirements are unconstitutional as we the people do not need to prove or pay anything to anyone when it comes to a right not a privilege a background check is already put in place a 3 day hold is put in place a 6% tax is now being put in place all of this is being put in place so that purchasing your right is near impossible I strongly urge you to vote no on SB25-003</p>
<p>Anthony Daiss Against themselves</p>	<p>Good day to you. This bill appeared to have started as a focus on magazine capacity, and has since morphed into a bill requiring lawful citizens to take a class in order to exercise their second amendment right. I am very much in favor of firearms education, but making it a requirement is not in the best interest of the people of Colorado. Education for hunting and concealed carry I can understand, but this bill will not reduce crime, it will only make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to acquire a firearm for their protection against criminals. Please vote no on this bill, and place your focus towards initiatives that can positively impact the citizens of Colorado. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Christopher Magee Against themselves</p>	<p>Committee members.</p> <p>I am here as a concerned citizen about the path you are taking regarding the people of Colorado and their rights. I could talk to you about the various issues that are wrong with this bill but I'm simply going to tell you a story. A story with a lesson. One night we were awoken to the news a dear family friend who ran an animal rehabilitation clinic an hour from Johannesburg had lost her life in a farm invasion. She and her husband didn't have the ability to defend themselves because of laws similar to SB25-003 and its licensing and restrictions. She was beaten, raped and when she tried to fight back she was beaten so hard it ruptured a blood vessel in her brain and she bled to death in front of her husband who was tied up and couldn't do anything.</p> <p>The police didn't get there for over an hour. This is the reality of a country that under the guise of safety their people have been disarmed and the criminals take advantage. SB25-003 has similar language to the Draconian laws in South Africa. I ask you to vote no but I say this to you.</p> <p>We will not be disarmed.</p>

<p>Jason Jones Against themselves</p>	<p>We dont want this. You claim to support democracy, look how unpopular this bill is, across the entire political scene. Please listen to the people who dont want this. You are supposed to represent the whole state, not just boulder and denver</p>
<p>Michael Singleton Against themselves</p>	<p>Good day,</p> <p>I would urge a no vote on SB25-003. I can ramble on about questionable constitutionality, the fact that this legislation is drawn up by national interest groups, and that it clearly will not prevent gun crime in the state of Colorado, but I won't. Laws against criminals are what prevent crime.</p> <p>I'll just remind you that the bills year after year, some introduced and some passed, are designed to slowly create a society where no one is armed. That's the end game. We know it and you know it. It's what Everytown and Giffords want, not what Colorado wants. Just stop.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, hopefully you read this unlike Senator Sullivan and the petitions hand delivered to him from his constituents which he considered trash.</p>
<p>Jim Chase Against themselves</p>	<p>You're only effecting law abiding citizens, criminals don't give a fuck about laws and will celebrate this, as will the government that's for this and taking our rights away! The time will come soon where the citizens you screw over will rise!</p>
<p>Ed Gunsch Against themselves</p>	<p>SB25-003 was originally described as further "teeth" behind the 15 round magazine limit in Colorado. Once an analysis was done on the bill, the public realized this was not just further enforcement of the magazine ban, this was a ban on many modern rifles and handguns. The bill morphed into a "Firearm Owners Identification Card" scheme at 2am on the day the bill was being debated. This was without any input from the public. This was a serious departure from the original bill as passed through Senate committee. In addition the descriptions in the bill about which firearms are affected is vague and best and gives the Attorney General unlimited power to categorize any firearm as falling under the bill.</p> <p>After further scrutinizing the fiscal note associated with the bill I was shocked to see a good portion of the money to implement this bill was coming out Colorado Parks and Wildlife budget. I find this disgraceful of the legislator to even consider this. That money is meant for wildlife and habitat management, as well as administration of the states trail program, and parks. This is total misuse of these funds. Part of the draw to Colorado is the natural resources, using that budget to implement gun control is unacceptable.</p>

	<p>In addition I see these major flaws in the bill as written.</p> <p>1.) For starters the bill states recoil operated are exempt, but this definition of recoil operated is very vague. By definition recoil is based in Newton's 3rd law on the conservation of momentum. Which states that the force required to accelerate something will evoke an equal but opposite reaction force, which means the *gases* expelled from the barrel is what causes recoil and cycling of the bolt. Recoil operated is a type of blow back operation which is part of the list of firearms that falls under this bill. In addition some of the least powerful handguns, ones that fire the .380 ACP are actually fall under the list because they are considered just blowback operated. While other common pistols chambered in 40 S&W or 9mm Luger can be argued to not fall under the restrictions because they are breech locking, which can be termed as delayed blowback. At a minimum these definitions should be further explained in the bill as to not be vague.</p> <p>2.) The Ruger Mini-14 ranch rifle is specifically excluded, which is really confusing. While the mechanics of the operation of the gun are different, in terms of power and fire rate it is no different than an AR-15 chambered in 5.56x45mm NATO, which I know is one of the specific guns this bill is meant to address. If this bill is truly about safety then why are these two firearms being treated differently?</p> <p>3.) The bill allows for the gun to be transferred to a gunsmith for maintenance, repair and modification. It also says that it can be returned to the lawful owner as long as they are not prohibited by law from possessing the firearm. But does this mean that if I own a grand fathered firearm and need to get it repaired I'm going to have to go through all of the training and other hoops in this bill to get my firearm back? The bill does not specify this. Frankly since this is not defined people would be worried about having my firearms serviced which potentially means they are going to be using unsafe firearms.</p> <p>4.) This bill is going to create an additional burden on Colorado Parks and Wildlife because of more people wanting to take a hunters education course. Are they funded to handle this influx. As it is now it can be difficult for people to find a class to take if they just want to hunt. In addition hunters education goes into training about many other things other than firearms safety, like how to limit your scent to animals, what is actually a legal buck deer, or bull elk, things that are not necessary for the safe operation of a semiautomatic firearm.</p> <p>5.) There was a similar requirement added to obtain a Concealed Weapons Permit during last years session. Jefferson county has yet to list certified instructors or course descriptions. The requirement is sent to take effect in about 5 months. At this rate anyone needing to renew around that time may not have enough time to get a class scheduled since they are not even being offered yet, and are probably going to</p>
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	<p>be limited in availability. They have had almost a year to implement this. This bill goes into effect in September, I highly doubt the details are going to available by the time this bill goes into effect.</p> <p>6.) There is a clause in the section about the sheriff issuing a Firearms Safety Course Eligibility Card that states, "AND MAY DENY OR REVOKE A CARD IF THE SHERIFF HAS A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT DOCUMENTED PREVIOUS BEHAVIOR BY THE APPLICANT OR CARDHOLDER MAKES IT LIKELY THE PERSON WILL PRESENT A DANGER TO THEMSELF OR OTHERS IF THE PERSON HOLDS A FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE ELIGIBILITY CARD ." This is vague and left up to the discretion of each county sheriff, which means the criteria could be different from county to county. Which seems like a very bad idea.</p> <p>7.) Throughout all of these sections the bill states: "THE FEE MUST REFLECT ACTUAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS TO OPERATED THE SYSTEM". How much are these fees going to be? It seems very open ended to me. Has there been any study done to figure out how much this entire process is going to cost the state, and thus be billed to those wanting to be able to legal purchase commonly used firearms?</p> <p>8.) The public was never given the opportunity to weigh in on the roughly 8 pages added to this bill via amendment in the middle of the session. This almost doubled the length of the bill and bypassed public testimony. At a minimum this bill should have been put back in committee to allow for this process.</p> <p>9.) There are many aspects of this bill that are already under legal challenges in various states. I don't believe it is in the best interest of Colorado tax payers to create a bill that there are know potential constitutional issues with. This could end up costing the state money in the form of legal challenges at a time when budgets are already tight.</p> <p>10.) As a mountain bike rider, I frequently right Green Mountain. To access the trails, I must cross Alameda Parkway and the Bear Creek/Jewel intersection. Weekly I am almost hit by a car while crossing that intersection at the cross walk with a walk signal. That said I am far more concerned about being struck by a vehicle than I am about being shot by a firearm. This bill requires far more frequent training than that of operating a motor vehicle, which kills far more people every year than a firearm.</p> <p>Please vote NO on this bill, or at a minimum introduce and pass amendments to clarify the inconsistencies and inherent problems with this bill in it's current form. I would like to give our legislators the benefit of the doubt and say that whoever wrote this bill lied about it's extent to the sponsors of the bill. It is pretty obvious that this bill was not originally written by someone in the state, please stand up for the</p>
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	<p>state of Colorado and DO NOT allow outside interests and money turn this state in to something no one that lives here wants it to be.</p>
<p>Robert Tanner Against themselves</p>	<p>You Must VOTE NO on this bill!</p> <p>This bill is a severe infringement on my and all other Coloradans 2nd amendment RIGHTS!</p> <p>Not only does this bill not do anything to prevent crime, but it severely hinders our abilities to exercise our 2nd amendment rights and protect ourselves from the very criminals you are enabling with these and other restrictions you are implementing. A disarmed society is a criminal's paradise as they can do crimes without fear of repercussions from their victims.</p> <p>You would not want to have to take days off of work, spend hundreds of dollars and get a special card to be able to speak your mind, have a fair trial, vote, or any other activity that is protected by the Bill of Rights. Why would you think it is ok to do this to Coloradans.</p> <p>Making me drive 3 hours to Wyoming to purchase my firearms or sit through lots of classes written by people that are not gun experts just to purchase another firearm (of which I already have some) does nothing for the safety and security of the public.</p> <p>If you want to do something to Curb gun crimes make the penalties for crimes using guns HARSH and leave my RIGHTS alone!</p> <p>Make no mistake, if you put this bill to the house I will mobilize with all the other people whose rights you have infringed on and will get you voted out. Colorado deserves better and there are hundreds of other things you should be spending your time on other than TAKING AWAY RIGHTS OF LAW ABIDING CITIZENS!</p> <p>Robert Tanner 15045 Tari Ct. Colorado Springs Co. 80921</p>
<p>John Dorcey Against themselves</p>	<p>As a Colorado resident for the past 35 years I strongly urge you to vote NO on this unconstitutional bill.</p>

	<p>The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution declares, “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.” Stephen P. Halbrook’s <i>The Founders’ Second Amendment: Origins of the Right to Bear Arms</i> reveals that this amendment protects an individual right rooted in natural law and essential to liberty, making restrictions on it unconstitutional. Such restrictions contradict the amendment’s plain text, the Founders’ intent, and the framework of freedom in the Constitution.</p> <p>Halbrook shows that the Founders viewed the right to bear arms as pre-existing, drawn from English common law and John Locke’s philosophy of self-defense and resistance to tyranny. James Madison crafted the Second Amendment to ensure the government could not disarm citizens, with “the right of the people” signaling an individual liberty akin to free speech or assembly. Restrictions like bans on specific firearms or excessive regulations (like firearms ID cards) treat this right as a privilege, undermining its inalienable nature and violating the Constitution.</p> <p>The amendment’s historical context, as Halbrook details, stems from the American Revolution, where British attempts to seize arms at Lexington and Concord underscored the need for an armed citizenry. Patrick Henry’s call, “The great object is that every man be armed,” reflects the Founders’ belief that this right deterred tyranny. Any type of restrictions ignore this purpose, weakening citizens’ ability to defend liberty and clashing with the amendment’s role in the constitutional order.</p> <p>Furthermore, things like firearm ID cards and registration requirements are unconstitutional infringements. Halbrook’s research highlights the Founders’ suspicion of centralized power, including any mechanism that could track or disarm the populace. Registration creates a government database of gun owners, a tool the government might have used to confiscate weapons pre-Revolution. The Second Amendment’s absolute language—“shall not be infringed”—offers NO room for such preconditions on exercising a right. Early American commentators like St. George Tucker, cited by Halbrook, saw the amendment as a total bar on federal or state overreach, and ID schemes impose a bureaucratic hurdle that chills the right’s free exercise. The Supreme Court in <i>Heller</i> (2008) struck down a handgun ban without endorsing registration, suggesting such measures lack constitutional grounding when they burden the core right of self-defense.</p> <p>Finally, Halbrook’s analysis of founding-era thought shows the Founders prioritized an armed populace over government control. Modern arguments for “public safety” via registration echo British rationales rejected in 1776. Early American militias relied on citizens bringing their own arms, unregistered, to defend the nation—registration would have crippled this system. Today’s ID and tracking laws risk enabling future confiscation, contradicting the amendment’s purpose as a check on power.</p> <p>Restricting Second Amendment rights, including through firearm ID cards and registration, is unconstitutional because it defies the amendment’s text, subverts the</p>
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	<p>Founders' intent to protect self-defense and liberty, and ignores the historical consensus that an armed citizenry is essential to a free state. Halbrook's work underscores that this right is a bedrock of the Constitution, not subject to government whim.</p> <p>Again I urge you to vote NO on this bill.</p>
<p>Matthew Koziolk Against themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing to testify against SB25-003, the unconstitutional semiautomatic firearm ban. This bill goes against our country's constitution and also goes against the state constitution. It is a politically ugly bill, as it does not address the actual issue of violence but instead panders to the out of state elite class of people who want to disarm the citizens and destroy Colorado's history of responsible firearm ownership. It will disenfranchise the working class, people of color, and women the most, as that is the fastest growing class of firearm owners in USA. This will lead to voter dissatisfaction against the Colorado state democrat party and hurt the party. The fiscal note on the bill is fraudulent, and assumes there will be an ability to process 50,000 course participants a year, if that many even do sign up to buy their rights back in the form of a privilege.</p> <p>This bill is unconstitutional both on federal and state levels, and if you tune out the gun culture hating party elites from out of state that fund this kind of legislation for just one minute of objective thought, you'll remember that the Heller decision in 2008 ruled that an individual's right to possess a firearm is independent of their enrollment or service in a militia.</p> <p>You'll also remember that in 2008's McDonald vs. Chicago, the right to keep and bear arms is protected by the second amendment and incorporated by the 14th amendment, protecting these rights from being infringed by local governments.</p> <p>2016's Caetano vs. Mass. ruled that the second amendment extends to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, including arms that were not in existence at the time of the founding of our country.</p> <p>In 2022, Bruen ruled that the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual's right to carry for self-defense outside the home and that the State's may-issue licensing regime violates the Constitution. It further highlighted a guidance for passing local level laws against people's right to bear arms, and SB25-003 is in complete violation of that guidance.</p>

	<p>On a state level, The Colorado Constitution also protects the right to bear arms under Article 2 Section 13 and a ban like SB 25-003 will undoubtedly be seen as infringing by the courts.</p> <p>This bill is politically ugly and will hurt the Democrat party in this state, which is growing more and more out of touch with the Coloradans it is supposed to represent. Although better than an outright ban, the proposed licensing scheme is going to rob us of our rights and will be challenged successfully as per the 14th amendment of the US Constitution. People of color, the working class, and women are the fastest growing gun owner demographic and this will look very bad for the state Democrats. Illinois' FOID was already ruled unconstitutional and this licensing scheme is significantly more burdensome, because Illinois did not require any training and spending hundreds of dollars in fees, classes, and ammo to be allowed a privilege that is constitutionally a right.</p> <p>The fiscal note is fraudulent because there is no way 50,000 people will sign up to buy their rights back in the form of a privilege. The working people of Colorado do not have hundreds of dollars to spend on a licensing scam like this one, and even if they do there is no clear plan to scale state-run classes to receive the firearm purchaser registry ID card. The state will further lose money with all the small business gun stores going out of business, while also losing money on that 6.5% tax that was passed last year. This bill will also create a heavy financial burden for the state when we file class action lawsuits and the state will have to defend an obviously unconstitutional law.</p> <p>This law stinks very badly, and I am inviting you to recognize that before you endorse it with your name for all of Colorado to see. Please vote no for SB25-003.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Matthew Koziolk Zip Code 80921</p>
<p>Denise Goldin-Dubois For themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>My name is Denise Goldin-Dubois. I am deeply committed to ending gun violence - as a mother of 2, a teacher, and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action. Thank you all for the opportunity to testify here today.</p> <p>As a teacher, I have sat silently in a classroom with students on lockdown when the STEM shooting occurred in 2019. As a mom, I have received texts from my kids letting me know they were okay when there was gun violence happening near their college campuses. As a Moms Demand Action volunteer, I had to reach out and</p>

	<p>share resources with an 85 year old family member who was a survivor of the Boulder King Soopers shooting. Her message at her first meeting was "everyone deserves to grow old." This legislation is one impactful step to save lives and keep the citizens of Colorado safe.</p> <p>There are multiple, tragic examples here in Colorado of our high-capacity magazine ban being evaded, with deadly consequences: ○ This is exactly what occurred in Boulder in 2021 at the King Soopers shooting. The shooter legally purchased a Ruger AR-556 semiautomatic pistol six days before the shooting. He then paired that legally purchased firearm with multiple high-capacity magazines, which are illegal to possess under current Colorado law, and murdered ten people. ○ Similarly, in the 2022 ClubQ shooting in Colorado Springs, the attacker perpetrated the attack with a self-assembled AR-15 style assault rifle and had several high capacity magazines including an empty 60-round magazine and several 40-round magazines—all illegal magazines under Colorado law. The ClubQ shooter spent \$9,000 on weapons-related purchases in the two years before the attack, after patronizing 56 different vendors.</p> <p>Colorado should ban the sale, purchase, and manufacture of all high-powered military style firearms that can accept detachable magazines. No one should be able to make these already-deadly firearms even more lethal by increasing their capacity with devices already banned by state law.</p> <p>Enacting this necessary and bold legislation will save lives. This legislation will be a critical thread in the tapestry of Ending Gun Violence.</p> <p>I urge you to vote yes on SB 25-003. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Bryan Brilz Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is a violation of our rights. The majority of people in Colorado whether they vote left or right are against this bill.</p>
<p>Ryan Marroquin Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB25-003. This bill threatens to infringe upon the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, specifically the right of law-abiding citizens to own semiautomatic firearms.</p> <p>The Second Amendment was enacted to ensure that free citizens of the United States retain the ability to protect themselves, their families, and their property. Restricting access to semiautomatic firearms, which are commonly used for self-defense and lawful sporting purposes, undermines the very principles upon which our country</p>

	<p>was founded. Such legislation limits personal freedom and infringes on the rights of responsible gun owners who use their firearms in accordance with the law.</p> <p>Moreover, there is little evidence to suggest that banning or restricting semiautomatic firearms would have any meaningful impact on reducing gun crime. Criminals who engage in unlawful activity are unlikely to be deterred by laws that restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens. Instead, such legislation could disarm those who abide by the law while leaving criminals with access to illegal firearms. The focus should be on addressing the root causes of crime and improving the enforcement of existing laws rather than punishing responsible gun owners.</p> <p>As a concerned citizen, I urge you to reject SB25-003 and uphold the constitutional rights of Coloradans to possess and responsibly use firearms. Our state should focus on finding effective solutions that address crime without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for considering the views of those who value our Second Amendment rights. I trust that you will make a decision that protects our freedoms while keeping Colorado safe.</p>
<p>Thomas Kelley Against himself</p>	<p>My name is Thomas Kelley and I am a 36-year-old resident of Platteville, Colorado. I have lived in Colorado since 2008 and am submitting this written testimony to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, which seeks to ban the sale, transfer, and purchase of certain semiautomatic firearms.</p> <p>As a law-abiding citizen and a longtime Coloradan, I believe this bill undermines our constitutional rights and fails to address the root causes of gun violence.</p> <p>Since moving to Platteville in 2008, I have come to depend on firearms for hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense, much like many others in our rural community. These activities are more than hobbies—they are integral to life in Colorado. This bill would restrict my ability to purchase and use the firearms I rely on for these lawful purposes. In a rural area like Platteville, where law enforcement response times can be slow, having effective tools to protect myself and my family is essential, not optional.</p> <p>The Second Amendment guarantees my right to bear arms, and semiautomatic firearms are among the most common and widely used in the United States. This bill unjustly infringes on that right. Law-abiding citizens like me should not have our freedoms curtailed due to the actions of criminals.</p> <p>Banning these firearms will not stop gun violence. Criminals, by definition, ignore laws and will obtain guns illegally regardless of this bill. Instead of imposing new restrictions that punish responsible gun owners, we should enforce existing laws and address underlying issues like mental health.</p> <p>Living in Platteville means I must often rely on myself for protection. Semiautomatic firearms are a practical and effective choice for self-defense, and banning them</p>

	<p>would leave me and my neighbors more vulnerable. In areas where help is not immediately available, we need the ability to keep our homes and families safe.</p> <p>The firearms targeted by this bill are ones I use for hunting and sport shooting—activities that are deeply rooted in Colorado’s culture. This ban would limit my ability to participate in these traditions and share them with future generations.</p> <p>I strongly urge the committee to vote no on Senate Bill 25-003. This legislation oversteps by eroding our rights, compromising our safety, and ignoring the real issues behind gun violence. Please reject this bill and preserve the freedoms of law-abiding Coloradans like me.</p>
<p>Eric Poling Against himself</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I cannot express how much I disdain the legislation in this bill. To only grant citizens the privilege to own something after they have met requirements and to only be able to purchase something then from a list of approved items is a restriction only placed on one right that I can think of. I ask, is this how any other right is treated? Is this even a right any longer? Do we ask permission to worship freely? Do we have to get special training to speak freely? Why is this only placed upon the second amendment? And to add insult to the injury, you force hunters and fishermen to pay for all of this with their own money! If I do not need to show an ID to vote, then why do I need a special permission slip and ID beyond what I already have to exercise my second amendment right? Why does the state have the power to restrict a law abiding citizen with what they can and cannot own? If a citizen is in good standing with the law, shouldn't they have the freedom to choose the best tool for defense for themselves? A criminal may forfeit their rights by their own actions and choice, but this bill and many others like it seem to be an attempt by the legislature to forfeit the rights of citizens without their consent. This is a gross infringement upon a constitutionally protected right, and I am ashamed of my state legislature and the executive branch for having considered such an appalling assault on their own constituent's rights. This is certainly not what Coloradans want and its very nature is odious to every principle of liberty. I beg you to oppose this bill and stop the degradation of our rights!</p>
<p>RICHARD KOEPEL Against himself</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Richard Koeppel of Colorado Springs, CO., owner and operator of Frugal Firearms, a home based, Gunsmith, Firearm manufacture, and Firearm transfer service. SB25-003 will effectively put me OUT of business for manufacturing, as I manufacture the type of Firearms that are targeted and listed in this bill.</p> <p>My transfer business will also decrease by at least 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, shotguns, and pistols for their collections and do not even shoot them. It is an investment for them, and this bill will prevent them from doing this.</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>This bill as written, does allow the sale and transfer of the specified firearms to law enforcement, BUT, the FFL will NOT be able to purchase any NEW specified firearms, so the entire Colorado law enforcement will NOT be able to purchase any new firearms that are developed in the future. That Needs to change. Federal Firearm Licensees Need to be able to purchase the specified firearms to sell to Law enforcement and to other customers in the other states that Do allow it, as that is a good part of my business revenue as well.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I do understand that you want to stop firearm violence, the problem is that if someone wants to do something evil and bad, They Will Find A Way!!! Look at what happened just a Month ago in the Denver 16th street mall area. A person KILLED 2 Innocent random people and wounded 2 others... With a KNIFE, a commonality used tool, which just like a firearm, it is a tool, it does not kill, it is the PERSON that does that.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with this bill and it should be stopped in this committee and go no further.</p> <p>Thank you Richard Koeppel 719-322-5161</p>
<p>Brianna Whitaker For themselves</p>	<p>The safety of our communities weighs heavily on me. Colorado has endured far too much gun violence. As a college student, the Aurora Century 16 shooting shattered my sense of security. That wasn't just a news story; it was my neighborhood theater, a place where friends and I gathered for safe entertainment. I felt utterly vulnerable, abandoned by those meant to protect us. We must do better. This bill offers a chance to reclaim our safety in schools, stores, and community spaces. We cannot afford another tragedy. I believe a balance between gun rights and public safety is achievable, and this bill is a crucial step. Weapons designed for military combat have no place in our neighborhoods. We need this change, urgently.</p>
<p>Ryan Mckeever Against</p>	<p>Against</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>It's fairly upsetting to have to waste time testifying against bills as poorly written as this. This cut and paste bill that's been amended into a disaster. Should never have made it out of a single committee. Let alone be voted on in the Senate at all.</p> <p>This bill has so many problems that hard to even keep track to make a list.</p> <p>I'll start off with it's completely pointless. We already have rules and laws similar to everything in this bill and our district attorneys are not choosing to prosecute the existing laws on the book. This bill just throws more punishments directly, aimed at people not currently breaking laws has almost a direct punishment for their political views.</p> <p>Next this bill violates the constitution in three or four different ways both state and federal. Bands common use magazines, bands, firearms that are in common use. Violate the fourth amendment that's just the name of you.</p> <p>Does not have support of the car division, wildlife or law-enforcement who are supposed to be the people administering this program. It sounds like you're redirecting much needed outdoor fees to pay for an illegal gun registry.</p> <p>And all of that to produce a bill directly pointed at the people who are actually going to manage their firearms effectively and lawfully. This bill will save zero lives. Will cost the state tens of millions of dollars in legal fees and management fees. Honestly make the state lawmakers look like a bunch of fucking retards. And ultimately not lower crime rates in the state of Colorado. I really wish our representative would stop wasting time and start coming up with actual fixes to problems instead of just taking in lobbyist money and producing dog shit bills like this that I have to waste my time writing emails against.</p>
<p>Jonathan Mell Against themselves</p>	<p>Honorable Members of the Colorado House of Representatives,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding HB25-003, a bill that proposes the creation of a firearm ID card system. As a proud resident of this state, I urge you to consider the significant financial, practical, and constitutional implications of this legislation. While I understand the intent behind improving public safety, this proposal risks imposing burdensome costs, infringing on fundamental rights, and harming Colorado's economy in ways that outweigh any potential benefits. Allow me to address six critical concerns.</p> <p>First, let's examine the financial cost of implementing a new firearm ID card system. The state would need to design, staff, and maintain an entirely new bureaucratic framework from scratch. This includes software development, employee training, and physical infrastructure—none of which come cheap. Other states with similar systems, like Illinois with its FOID card, have spent millions on administration and still face ongoing expenses. Colorado's budget is already stretched; diverting funds to this untested program could pull resources from schools, roads, or wildfire mitigation—priorities Coloradans value deeply. Without a clear cost estimate, approving HB25-003 is a blank check we cannot afford.</p> <p>Second, this system would delay the exercise of a fundamental right by creating a bottleneck that doesn't yet exist. Law-abiding citizens seeking to purchase or possess firearms would need an ID card, but the mechanism to issue it isn't operational. How long will it take to get this system running—six months? A year? Longer? With an estimated 1.5 million gun owners in Colorado, the initial demand could overwhelm</p>

	<p>any agency tasked with processing applications. Backups are inevitable, leaving people waiting weeks or months to exercise a right they're entitled to today. This isn't just inconvenience—it's a de facto suspension of liberty.</p> <p>Third, consider the impact on out-of-state hunters. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) relies heavily on hunting license revenue, much of it from non-residents drawn to our world-class elk and deer seasons. In 2023, CPW generated over \$100 million from hunting and fishing licenses, with out-of-state hunters contributing a significant share. If HB25-003 complicates firearm access—or signals that Colorado is hostile to sportsmen—those hunters may take their dollars to Wyoming or Utah instead. The ripple effect would gut CPW's budget, threatening conservation efforts that protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Fourth, this bill could shrink revenue from gun and ammunition sales, undermining the very taxes you've recently approved. Proposition KK, passed last November, imposes a 6.5% excise tax on firearm and ammo purchases to fund victim services—projected to raise \$39 million annually. If HB25-003 drives sales underground, across state lines, or out of existence due to delays and frustration, that revenue evaporates. Retailers near borders like Nebraska or Kansas could see customers flee, costing jobs and slashing the tax base. You can't fund vital programs by choking the source.</p> <p>Fifth, this legislation risks accelerating an exodus from Colorado. We're already seeing a drop in the U-Haul Migration Index, with more people leaving than arriving in recent years. Between 2020 and 2023, Colorado lost a net 33,000 residents, partly due to rising costs and regulatory overreach. For many, HB25-003 could be the last straw—another layer of red tape on top of taxes and restrictions. Families, hunters, and small business owners might pack up for freer states, taking their tax contributions and community spirit with them. Do we want to hasten that decline?</p> <p>Finally, and most critically, HB25-003 raises profound constitutional concerns. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, a right echoed in Article II, Section 13 of Colorado's Constitution. Requiring an ID card—a hurdle not imposed on free speech or voting—adds a precondition to a pre-existing right. The Supreme Court has made clear in cases like Bruen that such restrictions must align with historical tradition; this does not. It's a modern invention, not a time-honored safeguard. And for what? Criminals, who bypass legal channels, won't bother with ID cards, leaving law-abiding citizens to bear the burden. This isn't safety—it's control.</p> <p>In closing, I implore you to reject HB25-003. It's a costly experiment that delays rights, repels revenue, and erodes liberty—all while failing to address the root causes of violence. Colorado deserves better. Let's focus on solutions that unite us, not divide us further. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jon Mell Colorado Springs, CO</p>
<p>Simon Lamm Against</p>	<p>As a citizen of these United States of America I represent myself that this law if attempted to pass is an attempt to remove my second amendment right. In doing so the state representatives that vote yes should be voted out next term. Thank you</p>

<p>themselves</p>	
<p>John Grubbs Against themselves</p>	<p>I served 20 years in the United States Army with honor and always stated that I served to protect the Constitution for all Americans, but more for those I disagreed with than those with whom I was aligned. The 2nd amendment is the key to our Constitution and protecting the rights it contains. Any threat to these rights is something all Americans, especially those elected to represent the people, should be against. Unfortunately there are those who wish to take the power from the people and some citizens who would rather hand the power to a select few and sacrifice the rights of all to do so. I believe that rights require responsibilities, but bills such as this one propose only to strip away the rights of the citizens of Colorado. Gun laws such as this only affect the law abiding citizens and provide no more safety to the general public than replacing your front door with a screen door. Sacrificing rights and freedom in the name of security is a fool's errand and results in the acquisition of neither.</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>As a fellow Colorado citizen, I want to strongly urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003 in your committee.</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."</p> <p>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>Now, as amended, the state would require a permit to purchase these firearm platforms, which would require law-abiding gun owners to pay for both the permit and the necessary classes. Requiring lawful gun owners to pay for access is akin to placing a poll tax on the ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights.</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 strongly urge you to please OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003.</p>
<p>CHARLES PETRICK Against themselves</p>	<p>As a longtime law abiding Colorado resident, I am requesting SB25-003 not be passed.</p>

	<p>This bill will only affect us law abiding citizens, not the criminals it portends to effect.</p> <p>I should not have to jump through all these hoops, I have been a conscientist gun owner for over 50 years.</p> <p>Thank you, Charles</p>
<p>Mark Rinker Against themselves</p>	<p>I am AGAINST this bill. This state does nothing but treat law abiding citizens like they are the criminals. The real criminals will obtain guns just as easy as they do today because your laws will not apply to them and they will illegally get their guns to do whatever they want. In the meantime, your making it impossible for us law abiding citizens to protect ourselves from these criminals who wont be affected by your gun laws because they will continue to do what they do illegally. Law abiding citizens are not the ones you need to focus your laws onto. How about stop focusing on guns and use this money and time towards drug solutions instead. Thats where the real problem lies, all the drugs out there which causes the criminals to use their illegal guns for harm.</p>
<p>Jack Post Against themselves</p>	<p>I'd like for any of the bill sponsors to articulate in detail how this will affect gun violence. I'd like for them to explain how this affects criminals, and how it will affect law abiding gun owners. I'd also like to see any statistics on any of your gun legislation passed in the last 10 years, and its effects on gun violence. (Hint: it's accomplished nothing.)</p> <p>This democrat majority legislature has done nothing but attempt to regulate away the rights of American citizens using funding from billionaires. If the Democrats hold the position of getting unelected billionaires out of politics and legislation, then they should absolutely be against Michael Bloomberg and his organization EveryTown for Gun Safety.</p> <p>But of course as we've seen for years with the Democrats in power, if they didn't have double standards, they'd have none at all. I suggest an investigation into the legislative sponsors and supporters of this bill to see if and how much Bloomberg money has been given to these individuals.</p> <p>Sullivan ought to be ashamed at how he's disparaged his own constituents. All of you are complacent if you haven't publicly spoken against his hateful rhetoric. Our letters aren't trash. Our opinions and beliefs aren't garbage.</p>
<p>Clark Patterson Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing to you all about this bill due to many injustices and the deprivation of rights that may occur from this bill. While many others may point out the fact that this creates a barrier to entry for law abiding citizens to exerciser a right, I would like</p>

	<p>to bring up a different perspective. Colorado has a large budget deficit, and if this were to be signed into law this would increase that, as well as put a bigger strain on our parks and wildlife department which is already strained. Additionally, if this were to become law, this is something that would go to court, costing taxpayer dollars which could be better used to tackle the deficit instead of fighting something that is likely to be overturned in due time. I am asking you to consider voting against this bill so that we can better use taxpayer funds as well as not increase strain on the departments who would be in charge of liscensing</p>
<p>Brandon Bailey Against themselves</p>	<p>I BRANDON BAILEY WRITE YOU CAUSE US AS FREE AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEFEND OURSELVES WITH OUT YOU TRYING TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM US AND YES I LIVE IN CALIFORNIA OUR LAWS ARE STRICT BUT YOU ARE ONLY GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE FOR THE LAW A BIDDING CITIZEN TO GET WHAT THEY NEED TO DO SO.... I BEG YOU DON'T START FIRES THAT YOU CAN'T PUT OUT..AWAY FROM WHAT MAKES THIS COUNTRY GREAT THE SIMPLEST THINGS ARE TO TAKE THEM AWAY BUT MAKE THAT'S ALSO WHAT MAKE THIS COUNTRY IN THE FIRST PLACE WITHOUT THE BRITISH PEOPLE WOULD STILL BE OUR RULER S IN MY OPINION PLEASE BRING SENSE TO THE LAWS NOT ABOLISHMENT TO THIS FREE STATE WHICH I LOVE SO MUCH THANK FOR YOUR TIME ...</p> <p>SINCERELY MR. BRANDON NATHANIEL BAILEY</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against Weld County GOP</p>	<p>I am testifying to express my deep concern and opposition to SB25-003, and especially to the involvement of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the state government in supporting the implementation of SB25-003, a bill that represents one of the most egregious gun control measures ever proposed in this nation. Beyond its unconstitutional overreach, the funding mechanisms and fiscal implications of this legislation raise serious questions about transparency, accountability, and the priorities of our state leadership.</p> <p>According to the fiscal note on SB25-003, this bill is set to extract \$1.15 million from the state budget—a significant sum at a time when lawmakers are simultaneously voting to slash funding for critical crime and violence intervention programs, youth initiatives, mental health support, and other vital services. This shell game of budget allocation is troubling enough on its own, but it becomes even more alarming when paired with the sweeping scope of SB25-003. This legislation not only imposes an unconditional ban on a wide range of commonly used firearms but also establishes a de facto Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) system and gun registry—measures that infringe upon the rights of law-abiding Coloradans while doing little to address the root causes of violence.</p> <p>CPW's role in this scheme is particularly disconcerting. The bill's amendments suggest that CPW would be tasked with managing hunter safety and firearm safety courses as a prerequisite for citizens to retain their Second Amendment rights—effectively turning a conservation agency into an arm of gun control enforcement.</p>

	<p>This not only diverts CPW from its core mission of wildlife management and outdoor recreation but also places an undue financial and administrative burden on an agency that relies heavily on license sales and user fees, not taxpayer handouts. How does CPW justify this redirection of resources, especially when the state is cutting programs that directly benefit public safety and community well-being?</p> <p>I urge each of you as members of the 2025 House of Representatives—to take immediate action to address this travesty. CPW should withdraw any support or participation in implementing SB25-003 and refocus on its mandate to serve Colorado’s outdoor enthusiasts and conserve our natural resources. Governor Polis, I call on you to veto this bill if it reaches your desk and to demand transparency about its funding and true costs to the state. The people of Colorado deserve better than a backroom deal that sacrifices our rights and our budget for a measure that will inevitably face costly legal challenges—challenges the state can ill afford.</p> <p>Please do not let this stand. I implore you to listen to the voices of your constituents and reject this shady, fiscally irresponsible, and constitutionally dubious legislation. I look forward to your response and, more importantly, your actions to rectify this situation.</p>
<p>Aaron Mercer Against themselves</p>	<p>I just wanted to reach out and ask that you vote NO on this bill. In my opinion this bill will do nothing but cause more grief for us law abiding gun owners. How much more unnecessary red tape do we need to go through to exercise our CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. We have had an onslaught of attacks on our second amendments rights. When does this stop.</p> <p>I would compare this to adding red tape to voting rights, free speech rights, equality rights, etc. Are we passing laws that require law abiding citizens to get permits, add taxes, be sanctioned on these additional rights. Absolutely not. There would be an uprising if there was.</p> <p>I hope my position and opinion makes sense and I hope that you do not allow this bill to become law. This is not the answer. We need to hold the criminals responsible. Not punish the law abiding. An eye for an eye to the criminals and evil doers of the world. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Grant Jerry Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a Colorado resident and life-long hunter, angler, wildlife conservationist, and outdoors enthusiast. I am a life-member and volunteer with numerous wildlife organizations such as Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation, and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society. With a looming \$1 billion budget deficit, I have significant concerns about the fiscal impact of SB 25-003. More specifically, I am concerned about the impact of this bill on funding for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the important work they do.</p> <p>According to the Fiscal Note on SB 25-003- Technical Note, “The Firearms Training and Safety Course Cash Fund is intended to cover costs for the CPW to administer</p>

	<p>the records system. However, it will not have sufficient revenue in FY 2025-26 to cover these costs. The fiscal note assumes an appropriation from the Wildlife Cash Fund to the DNR, although uses of the Wildlife Cash Fund in the CPW are limited by statute, which would need to be amended to allow this cash fund to pay for costs associated with the bill. Without an amendment, another funding source would need to be identified.”</p> <p>The Wildlife Cash Fund is paid for by hunters, anglers, and parks users. It is used to support wildlife habitat, public access, and wildlife-related recreation. It cannot and should not be used to fund firearms licensing, particularly semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines. During the CPW Commission meeting this week, Director Davis and numerous Commissioners called out serious budget concerns funding critical CPW wildlife programs. Why would you intentionally exacerbate these issues? Why would you divert funds from vital wildlife programs to fund firearm licensing? Why should hunters, anglers, hikers, bikers, campers, and birdwatchers have to take on the financial burden of licensing semi-automatic firearms with detachable magazines?</p> <p>If you allow SB 25-003 to pass as written, you will have broken trust with the whole Colorado outdoor recreation community. I ask you to stand with the thousands of Coloradans who prioritize CPW’s essential mission and send this bill back to the original sponsors and committee. SB 25-003 violates statute regarding appropriate use of the Wildlife Cash Fund and Colorado wildlife are too important in this current environment. I would love the opportunity to discuss further with you or your staff.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Grant Jerry</p> <p>Woodland Park, CO</p>
<p>Andrew Carroll Against himself</p>	<p>Criminals don’t abide by the existing gun laws. Why are you taking away my rights? You are wasting money and time with these new laws, every single year.</p> <p>I can tell you for sure that the people who did a drive-by shooting on my house this January, and sent 25 bullets into our home, didn’t care about laws, past, present or proposed.</p> <p>Millions of dollars are spent each year, for some politicians and anti-gunners to attempt to enact new laws which criminals, and those who are mentally/emotionally unstable, to ignore as they commit their hatred on society.</p>

	<p>Imagine if all the anti-gun money was spent helping people. It's clear to me that these people NEED HELP, and they need it BEFORE they commit their crimes. Not with food stamps and temporary housing. I'm talking about mental/emotional help, helping them in their situation. Perhaps there could be a "help people" agenda?</p> <p>What would that look like? I've got some ideas but I only get 2500 characters here. The main idea is to stop wasting money and time on laws to be mocked, and start helping people.</p> <p>Gun banners and many politicians keep coming up with new laws and restrictions, blindly blaming gun owners and the 2nd amendment for problems. It's almost like they are getting paid to waste money and time to assassinate the 2nd amendment. It's clear they aren't focused on REALLY helping the issues.</p> <p>I'd be willing to go as far as to suspect the gun banners, and possibly some politicians, are being funded to undermine the Constitution of the United States. Perhaps those who comply are getting "kick backs"? Perhaps that's why they would continue, year after year, to enact some laws and/or restrictions that will just be mocked in the crime world?</p> <p>That's the issue here. Regardless of how much money and time you waste, how many laws or restrictions are made, if the shooters don't respect them, even if you ban all guns, it won't stop them. They'll get their weapons, like terrorists, from some place, and use them against people.</p> <p>The people who attempted to murder us in our house didn't care about ANY EXISTING LAWS and they won't care about SB25-003. You have, for decades now, wasted time and money that could better be spent on solutions that will make a difference. You could even fund the Victims Advocacy to help me and my family! That would be making a difference!</p> <p>Do better or GET OUT OF OFFICE. Stop wasting time and money!</p>
<p>James Doanes Against himself</p>	<p>Dear Public Servants of my state of Colorado:</p> <p>I would like to thank you for considering my thoughts on Senate Bill #3 titled "Semi-Automatic Firearm Ban and Gun Owner Registry". My concern is there are an increasing number of hurdles that being put in place for me to legally own a firearm that I use for hunting, target practice, and other recreational pursuit that present no danger to anyone. I assume this is an attempt to keep firearms out of the the hands of criminals and other "bad characters", but there has to be a better way. This is a broad brush measure that makes me feel like I'm one of the criminals. As a law-abiding citizen who has, at most, one traffic citation in the last 2+ decades and have</p>

	<p>raised three respectful children into contributing adults, I make one request: Please stop these generic approaches to gun control, do a better job of targeting criminals, and stop treating me like I'm one of the bad actors!</p> <p>Thank you, James Doanes</p>
<p>Kristine Peterson Against themselves</p>	<p>SB 25-003 is an egregious attack on the Constitutional rights of every citizen of Colorado. This is an unconstitutional gun, money and rights grab of gigantic proportions destined to be overturned by the Supreme Court. One would hope that the Colorado legislative body would have better time and resource management skills, focusing on fixing the fiscal morass they created instead of attacking the foundational documents and precepts of this nation. Yet here we are, debating the abrogation of the constitutional and civil rights of every Colorado citizen. The constitution is clear – the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.</p> <p>Since when is the Division of Wildlife in charge of gun control? They are in the red already. Attempting to add unconstitutional gun management to their tasks will be a failure. The cartels and mass shooters are not going to apply for permission to purchase a gun nor take a class. Hunters will refuse to come to Colorado because of the gun laws here; the Division of Wildlife will sink into further debt and disarray. The tourist industry will suffer the same result. This state is already in a \$1.2 billion shortfall.</p> <p>Passage of this bill will foment a 90% vote for succession by the counties. When the gun owners of Colorado leave the state that will create in excess of another one billion dollar shortfall. Citizens are already leaving; I know many who have left. My brother-in-law reported last week that at his shooting range in Arkansas they have a bunch of new members, all of them new residents that left Colorado.</p> <p>History has repeatedly shown that registration leads to confiscation, abuse, brutality and then mass murder of citizens by their own government, initially focused upon religious and ethnic minorities. Dictators throughout history initially disarm the population as a prelude to totalitarianism. The choice is stark and you will be made known by your votes. Will you vote for liberty or authoritarianism?</p>
<p>Packard Brown For themselves</p>	<p>SB25-003: Colorado Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices Bill</p> <p>I am writing in support of SB25-003. As a parent, corporate instructor, theologian, and a Ceasefire volunteer, I believe it's important we do whatever we can to limit, even eradicate the use of semi-automatic weapons. Banning the use of detachable magazines is a step towards that end.</p> <p>While numerous studies have detailed the mountain of casualties from mass shootings, I want to add a lesser known detail around such events. I'm speaking of the negative impact on a community's economy from a mass shooting. As reported in the July 3rd, 2023 study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; we learn of the following:</p>

	<p>1. Families suffering from a mass shooting as well as those exposed to it, maintain pessimistic views of their own finances and develop cynical opinions about the conditions of the local economy,</p> <p>2. Families are more likely to claim deterioration of their mental health, which hinders usual activities such as employment, and</p> <p>3. On a broader scale, community leaders report that their financial standing had become worse than before the shooting.</p> <p>What may be the cost on a national scale? According to the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, it's estimated to be as high as \$570 billion per year. (July 18, 2023).</p> <p>So besides the carnage such events foster, they destabilize the finances of a family and the broader community at large.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to support SB25-003.</p> <p>Cordially submitted,</p> <p>Packard N. Brown, Centennial resident</p>
<p>Richard Rhoades Against himself</p>	<p>I am totally against this item. This will only inconvenience us sporting folks. As you know, those who have criminal intent do not follow laws and rules. They can easily buy their weapons 'off the street' anyway.</p>
<p>Calvin Mauger Against himself</p>	<p>I am writing this to urge you to vote against this tyranny. This bill would hurt numerous Colorado residents. This bill would put many sporting goods stores out of business because you would be outlawing nearly 90% of firearms that are currently sold. This is a direct attack on our Rights as Citizens. The people have the right to keep and bear arms. Yet you are trying to outlaw almost all self defense firearms and many many firearms used for hunting.</p> <p>This is unacceptable. The amendments to this bill would just create undo hardship in order to practice a Right. This bill would also let the government create a list of people and what firearms they have. Quit attacking our Rights. We are Citizens, not Serfs.</p>
<p>Albert Moccia Against himself</p>	<p>As one of your constituents, I implore you to vote against Senate Bill 25-003</p> <p>This bill is a clear violation of the second amendment, and a violation of the oath you swore to protect the constitution. This bill bans the most commonly bought and owned, legal firearms in America. Further, this bill puts lower income families at a disadvantage due to the costs they would have to pay in order to meet the requirement to own the firearms. This bill if going to wrongfully ban, should they choose to take the required courses. Some would call this racism due to disadvantaged communities having larger numbers of different ethnic backgrounds. It is at its core unconstitutional, but it is also unethical to punish law abiding citizens</p>

	<p>for the crimes of others. This bill will do nothing to stop horrible people from committing crimes and give the criminals a huge advantage over the general public.</p> <p>Please, honor your oath to protect the constitution and vote against this horrible attack on the liberty of the Colorado constituents that you work for.</p>
<p>Tiffany Kahle Against themselves</p>	<p>From both a legal and Second Amendment perspective, the proposed Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 raises several constitutional concerns, particularly in relation to the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment and legal principles surrounding the right to bear arms. Below are key arguments why this bill may be considered unconstitutional and problematic from. Violation of the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms</p> <p>Broad Prohibition of Semiautomatic Firearms: The bill specifically targets "specified semiautomatic firearms," which includes widely owned firearms such as AR-15-style rifles and certain shotguns and handguns. These firearms are commonly used by law-abiding citizens for self-defense, sporting activities, and hunting. A broad ban on such firearms may be seen as a violation of the Second Amendment, which protects the individual right to keep and bear arms. U.S. Supreme Court rulings such as <i>*District of Columbia v. Heller*</i> (2008) confirm that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess arms commonly used for self-defense, and semiautomatic firearms are prevalent in this category.</p> <p>-Infringing on "Common Use" Principle In <i>*Heller*</i>, the Court ruled that firearms in "common use" are protected by the Second Amendment. Banning semiautomatic firearms, many of which are in common use, especially for self-defense and sporting purposes, may be viewed as unconstitutional because it interferes with the core of the Second Amendment right.</p> <p>2. Overbroad Restrictions on Firearms Ownership</p> <p>- Unjustified Limitation on Transfers: The bill prohibits the transfer, sale, or purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms, with exceptions only for specific groups such as law enforcement and military. This overbroad restriction could be seen as an unconstitutional infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to acquire, possess, and transfer firearms. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, and these transfers are a fundamental part of exercising that right.</p> <p>- Excessive Regulations on Personal Transfers: The bill's prohibition on personal transfers—such as between private individuals—violates the principle that individuals have a constitutionally protected right to transfer firearms. These types of regulations could easily lead to criminal charges for legal, responsible gun owners who simply transfer a firearm to a family member or friend.</p> <p>3. Unreasonable and Unconstitutional Licensing and Registration Requirements</p> <p>- Firearms Course Card Requirement: The bill mandates that individuals must obtain a "firearms course card" issued by a sheriff to enroll in firearms safety courses. This could be seen as an undue burden on individuals seeking to exercise their Second</p>

	<p>Amendment rights. While gun safety courses can be beneficial, requiring government-issued permission to engage in lawful firearms activities may be interpreted as creating a de facto gun registry, which raises significant constitutional concerns.</p> <p>Potential for National Gun Registry: The creation of a state-run system to track and record individuals' participation in firearms safety courses could be viewed as a step toward creating a gun registry, something that is strongly opposed by many Second Amendment advocates. While the bill claims to ensure safety, tracking gun owners could be seen as a government overreach and a violation of privacy rights, as it may lead to unnecessary government surveillance of lawful gun owners.</p> <p>4. Penalties for Law-Abiding Citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severe Penalties for Non-Compliance: The bill imposes criminal penalties, including class 2 misdemeanors and class 6 felonies, for individuals who manufacture, distribute, transfer, or possess semiautomatic firearms outside the restrictions outlined in the bill. These criminal penalties are disproportionately harsh for otherwise law-abiding citizens who may unintentionally violate the law due to the complexity and ambiguity of firearm laws. Penalizing individuals who violate overly restrictive regulations could result in violations of due process rights, as well as unnecessary criminalization of normal behavior. <p>5. Disproportionate Impact on Law-Abiding Gun Owners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ineffective Against Crime: The bill's measures focus on restricting civilian access to semiautomatic firearms, but there is little evidence to suggest that such laws would reduce gun violence or criminal activity. Criminals typically do not obey gun laws, and imposing strict regulations on lawful gun owners does not directly address the root causes of gun violence. Rather than restricting access to firearms, a more effective strategy might focus on addressing illegal firearms trafficking and enhancing law enforcement capabilities to target criminal misuse of firearms. <p>6. Potential to Undermine State Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overreach by State Government: The bill could be viewed as overreaching by the state government, as it imposes stringent and potentially unconstitutional restrictions on the exercise of a fundamental constitutional right. While states have the ability to regulate firearms, such regulations must be narrowly tailored and not infringe upon the core rights protected by the Second Amendment. <p>ChatGPT</p> <p>Log in</p> <p>You said:</p> <p>From both a legal and Second Amendment perspective, the proposed Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 raises several constitutional concerns, particularly in relation to the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment and legal principles surrounding the right to bear arms. Below are key arguments why this bill may be considered</p>
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	<p>unconstitutional and problematic from a lawyer’s viewpoint and Second Amendment supporter’s perspective:</p> <p>### 1. Violation of the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad Prohibition of Semiautomatic Firearms: The bill specifically targets "specified semiautomatic firearms," which includes widely owned firearms such as AR-15-style rifles and certain shotguns and handguns. These firearms are commonly used by law-abiding citizens for self-defense, sporting activities, and hunting. A broad ban on such firearms may be seen as a violation of the Second Amendment, which protects the individual right to keep and bear arms. U.S. Supreme Court rulings such as <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> (2008) confirm that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess arms commonly used for self-defense, and semiautomatic firearms are prevalent in this category. - Infringing on "Common Use" Principle: In <i>Heller</i>, the Court ruled that firearms in "common use" are protected by the Second Amendment. Banning semiautomatic firearms, many of which are in common use, especially for self-defense and sporting purposes, may be viewed as unconstitutional because it interferes with the core of the Second Amendment right. <p>### 2. Overbroad Restrictions on Firearms Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unjustified Limitation on Transfers: The bill prohibits the transfer, sale, or purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms, with exceptions only for specific groups such as law enforcement and military. This overbroad restriction could be seen as an unconstitutional infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to acquire, possess, and transfer firearms. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, and these transfers are a fundamental part of exercising that right. - Excessive Regulations on Personal Transfers: The bill's prohibition on personal transfers—such as between private individuals—violates the principle that individuals have a constitutionally protected right to transfer firearms. These types of regulations could easily lead to criminal charges for legal, responsible gun owners who simply transfer a firearm to a family member or friend. <p>### 3. Unreasonable and Unconstitutional Licensing and Registration Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firearms Course Card Requirement: The bill mandates that individuals must obtain a "firearms course card" issued by a sheriff to enroll in firearms safety courses. This could be seen as an undue burden on individuals seeking to exercise their Second Amendment rights. While gun safety courses can be beneficial, requiring government-issued permission to engage in lawful firearms activities may be interpreted as creating a de facto gun registry, which raises significant constitutional concerns. - Potential for National Gun Registry: The creation of a state-run system to track and record individuals' participation in firearms safety courses could be viewed as a
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step toward creating a gun registry, something that is strongly opposed by many Second Amendment advocates. While the bill claims to ensure safety, tracking gun owners could be seen as a government overreach and a violation of privacy rights, as it may lead to unnecessary government surveillance of lawful gun owners.

4. ****Penalties for Law-Abiding Citizens****

- ****Severe Penalties for Non-Compliance****: The bill imposes criminal penalties, including class 2 misdemeanors and class 6 felonies, for individuals who manufacture, distribute, transfer, or possess semiautomatic firearms outside the restrictions outlined in the bill. These criminal penalties are disproportionately harsh for otherwise law-abiding citizens who may unintentionally violate the law due to the complexity and ambiguity of firearm laws. Penalizing individuals who violate overly restrictive regulations could result in violations of due process rights, as well as unnecessary criminalization of normal behavior.

5. ****Disproportionate Impact on Law-Abiding Gun Owners****

- ****Ineffective Against Crime****: The bill's measures focus on restricting civilian access to semiautomatic firearms, but there is little evidence to suggest that such laws would reduce gun violence or criminal activity. Criminals typically do not obey gun laws, and imposing strict regulations on lawful gun owners does not directly address the root causes of gun violence. Rather than restricting access to firearms, a more effective strategy might focus on addressing illegal firearms trafficking and enhancing law enforcement capabilities to target criminal misuse of firearms.

6. ****Potential to Undermine State Rights****

- ****Overreach by State Government****: The bill could be viewed as overreaching by the state government, as it imposes stringent and potentially unconstitutional restrictions on the exercise of a fundamental constitutional right. While states have the ability to regulate firearms, such regulations must be narrowly tailored and not infringe upon the core rights protected by the Second Amendment.

Conclusion:

From both a lawyer's perspective and a Second Amendment supporter's point of view, SB 25-003 raises significant constitutional concerns. The bill infringes upon the fundamental right to keep and bear arms, imposes overbroad and unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding gun owners, and could lead to unjust criminal penalties for individuals who fail to comply with complex regulations. It also sets a dangerous precedent for state government interference with a constitutionally protected right, potentially setting the stage for future attempts to further curtail Second Amendment rights. Ultimately, the bill could be seen as both an unconstitutional overreach and an ineffective solution to addressing gun violence.

ChatGPT said:

	<p>The analysis you've provided outlines significant legal concerns about Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 from both a Second Amendment and constitutional law perspective. I'll expand on a few points and add legal context where appropriate to strengthen the arguments:</p> <p>1. Violation of the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms</p> <p>Broad Prohibition of Semiautomatic Firearms: The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> (2008) affirmed that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess firearms, particularly those in common use. This includes semiautomatic firearms, which are widely used for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. The ban on these firearms in SB 25-003 could be seen as a direct infringement upon this individual right. The court noted that arms that are "in common use" cannot be banned, as they are integral to exercising the right to bear arms.</p> <p>Infringing on "Common Use" Principle: The <i>Heller</i> decision reinforced that firearms in common use for lawful purposes cannot be banned. Semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 are among the most commonly owned firearms in the U.S. and are used by millions for lawful purposes, including personal defense. A law that bans such firearms may be seen as directly conflicting with <i>Heller's</i> interpretation of the Second Amendment, as it would disproportionately target law-abiding citizens who use these firearms for legal purposes.</p> <p>2. Overbroad Restrictions on Firearms Ownership</p> <p>Unjustified Limitation on Transfers: The Second Amendment not only protects the possession of firearms but also the right to acquire and transfer firearms. Historically, laws that impede the lawful transfer of firearms have been viewed with skepticism. Restrictions on private transfers could lead to a chilling effect on legal transactions and complicate the process for law-abiding citizens who wish to pass down firearms to family members or sell to other responsible individuals. The U.S. Supreme Court has not directly addressed this issue, but the broad protection of the right to bear arms in <i>Heller</i> and subsequent cases suggests that laws interfering with lawful transactions may be unconstitutional.</p> <p>Excessive Regulations on Personal Transfers: The restriction on personal transfers could also be seen as a violation of due process rights. By criminalizing personal transfers without clear and narrowly tailored exceptions, SB 25-003 could unfairly penalize individuals who have no criminal intent but fail to comply with complex registration or transfer rules. This could potentially lead to unnecessary legal complications for responsible gun owners.</p> <p>3. Unreasonable and Unconstitutional Licensing and Registration Requirements</p>
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	<p>Firearms Course Card Requirement: While safety courses are not inherently problematic, making them a prerequisite to exercising a fundamental right could be seen as an undue burden. The requirement for a government-issued firearms course card could be interpreted as an infringement on the right to bear arms, especially if the state implements overly restrictive or bureaucratic processes for obtaining this certification. The potential creation of a centralized database of gun owners could also lead to concerns about privacy and the potential for future attempts at creating a national gun registry.</p> <p>Potential for National Gun Registry: While SB 25-003 may not explicitly establish a gun registry, creating systems to track firearms ownership or related activities could be viewed as a step toward such a registry. This raises privacy and constitutional concerns, particularly regarding the government's ability to surveil lawful gun owners without a compelling justification.</p> <p>4. Penalties for Law-Abiding Citizens</p> <p>Severe Penalties for Non-Compliance: The criminal penalties outlined in the bill could be seen as disproportionate to the offense, particularly for individuals who may unintentionally violate complex regulations. Imposing severe penalties for what could be considered technical violations of the law could result in unjust outcomes for otherwise law-abiding citizens. These penalties could potentially violate the due process clauses of the Constitution, as the vague nature of the law may fail to give clear notice to gun owners of what constitutes non-compliance.</p> <p>Disproportionate Impact on Law-Abiding Gun Owners: The bill's penalties could create a disproportionate impact on responsible gun owners who do not engage in criminal activity but inadvertently run afoul of complex regulations. By imposing significant criminal penalties, the law risks ensnaring those who are not involved in illicit activities but merely fail to comply with overly broad restrictions.</p> <p>5. Ineffective Against Crime</p> <p>Ineffective Against Crime: While the bill's proponents may argue that restricting access to semiautomatic firearms will reduce gun violence, there is little empirical evidence suggesting that such laws will have a meaningful impact on reducing crime. Criminals are less likely to comply with gun restrictions, and the law would primarily affect lawful gun owners, not criminals who are likely to obtain firearms through illegal means. A more effective strategy may involve addressing illegal firearms trafficking, enhancing law enforcement capabilities, and focusing on mental health and social issues underlying gun violence.</p> <p>6. Potential to Undermine State Rights</p> <p>Overreach by State Government: While states have the right to regulate firearms under the Tenth Amendment, those regulations cannot infringe upon core constitutional rights, such as the right to bear arms. If SB 25-003 significantly restricts or bans widely used firearms without a compelling interest, it could be seen as an</p>
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	<p>unconstitutional overreach. Courts are likely to scrutinize whether such regulations are narrowly tailored to serve a legitimate public safety interest, or if they unnecessarily infringe on an individual’s rights.</p> <p>simply exercising their rights.</p> <p>7. Financial Burden on Law-Abiding Citizens</p> <p>Cost of Compliance: SB 25-003 could impose significant financial burdens on law-abiding gun owners. The requirement for firearms safety courses, along with potential registration and licensing fees, may be prohibitively expensive for some individuals. For example, obtaining a firearms course card issued by a sheriff could involve costs for the course itself, application fees, and other administrative expenses. These costs could create a financial barrier for individuals who wish to exercise their Second Amendment rights, particularly for lower-income citizens or those in rural areas where such courses may be more difficult to access.</p> <p>Increased Costs for Firearms Ownership: The bill’s prohibition on the transfer, sale, or purchase of semiautomatic firearms could also lead to an increase in the cost of acquiring or maintaining firearms. For example, individuals who already own these firearms may be required to register them or undergo additional procedures to comply with the law, which could involve costly legal fees or other financial burdens. Moreover, any potential restrictions on the sale of certain firearms could drive up the cost of firearms in the private market, disproportionately impacting those who rely on affordable access to firearms for self-defense or recreational use.</p> <p>Impact on Businesses: Gun retailers, firearms instructors, and other businesses in the firearms industry could also face economic hardship due to the restrictions imposed by SB 25-003. These businesses may be forced to comply with new regulations, potentially leading to higher operational costs or even closures in extreme cases. This could result in a loss of jobs and reduced economic activity in sectors related to firearms, which in turn could negatively impact local economies.</p> <p>From both a lawyer’s perspective and a Second Amendment supporter’s point of view, SB 25-003 raises significant constitutional concerns. The bill infringes upon the fundamental right to keep and bear arms, imposes overbroad and unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding gun owners, and could lead to unjust criminal penalties for individuals who fail to comply with complex regulations. It also sets a dangerous precedent for state government interference with a constitutionally protected right, potentially setting the stage for future attempts to further curtail Second Amendment rights. Ultimately, the bill could be seen as both an unconstitutional overreach and an ineffective solution to addressing gun violence.</p> <p>Please vote NO on SB25-003.</p>
<p>Brian Christie Against himself</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 prohibiting nearly all of the popular firearm styles to most people. This bill will, as it stands, put common use firearms out of the reach of many who would like to be able to defend themselves. By adding extra time to the process (as yet unspecified) and by creating both money and time expenditures before allowing a person to even buy a common use semi-automatic firearm, this bill clearly makes the purchase of these common firearms only available to the wealthy.</p> <p>Additionally, this bill creates a list that the Colorado government will maintain of all individuals who have purchased these common firearms, at least within the state of Colorado. Which brings me to another point: do you expect other states to enforce Colorado laws? You are putting an extra burden on other states, not just your own.</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 A Colorado resident who is tiring of this assault on our constitutionally protected rights.</p>
<p>Christopher Michaud Against himself</p>	<p>As a lifelong Coloradan, a 20-year resident of Lakewood, and a gun owner, I firmly urge you to OPPOSE SB25-003.</p> <p>Law-abiding Colorado gun owners, hunters, recreational shooters, and those who own guns for self-defense are united against SB25-003. SB25-003 is an extreme anti-gun bill that infringes on the rights of law-abiding Coloradans like me to keep and bear arms, as well as my right to defend myself, my family, and my property as protected under Colorado state and local laws. In fact, it is designed to turn a fundamental right guaranteed to American citizens in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article II, section 13 of our Colorado Constitution into a privilege granted by the government. However, the right to keep and bear arms is not a privilege; it is a right as essential as those found in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and it "shall not be infringed."</p> <p>The impact of the revised SB25-003 is to make purchasing some of the most common firearms in the U.S. so onerous and costly as to discourage the exercise of</p>

	<p>the Second Amendment right, and in doing so, infringes on this 233-year-old right. This is a clear violation of both the federal and state constitutions, not unlike the Illinois FOID law that was again declared unconstitutional just last month on February 10th by the 2nd Judicial Circuit Court with its ruling on Illinois v. Vivian Brown.</p> <p>Law-abiding citizens of Colorado already have to be at least 21 years of age to purchase any firearm, complete a background check for every firearm purchase, and abide by a three-day waiting period prior to taking possession of a firearm. If they hunt, they are already required to complete a hunter education course and be issued a Hunter Education card prior to purchasing a hunting license (much of this program focuses on firearms safety). Those who conceal-carry already have to complete a sheriff-approved conceal-carry course, get fingerprints taken, and complete a background check before receiving their conceal-carry permit from their sheriff's office--and they go through this process every five years. At each step for any of these, the gun owner is required to pay in addition to state and local sales taxes. Over the previous two years alone, according to the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice's November 2024 report, Colorado has passed seven Senate bills (SB) and six House bills (HB) addressing gun ownership, storage, and gun-owner responsibilities. SB25-003 will add yet another layer of unreasonable restrictions, requirements, and costs for law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights.</p> <p>SB-003 simply goes too far, and I urge you to oppose this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christopher Michaud 10219 W Idaho Ave Lakewood, CO 80232 (303) 842-7287</p>
<p>Clayton Proffer Against himself</p>	<p>SB 25-003 (Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices A.K.A. Permit to Purchase scheme/FOID, mandatory class) This bill is unlawful and is an egregious violation of Colorado citizens' fundamental rights by expanding the appallingly sleazy government interference for firearm purchasers. This creates a registry of persons likely to own and have been confirmed to own a firearm. Colorado databases are already exploited for unregulated parasitic and malicious activities in such databases; such as when registering a car and registrants then receive mail about a phony expired warranty, or purchasing a home and similarly the buyer is targeted with fraudulent offers for financing, or upon marriage a couple is bombarded with planning offers. No good can come of creating another hoop to jump through in such a database (especially a state harbored one) for what is lawful activity. Furthermore, the Second Circuit Court has ruled permit to purchase schemes are unconstitutional and the Tenth Circuit Court is unlikely to uphold this bill, while across the nation, semiautomatic firearms are ubiquitous and rapid-fire devices are</p>

	<p>legal with many loopholes and legal means to acquire them. This bill again seeks to persecute peaceful gun owners by redefining what a high capacity magazine is vs. industry standard. SB 25-0003 is an open attempt to claw back the fundamental liberties of Colorado citizens and rebrand us as peasant residents. Please, DO NOT accept this bill in any form.</p>
<p>Laura Andrus Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a 4th generation Colorado native. I am strongly against this bill. These types of restrictions will only prohibit Coloradans from their God- and Constitution-given right to bear arms. I am a law abiding citizen that enjoys target shooting. I come from a family of hunters who only hunted for food. This bill will NOT keep guns away from criminals - which should be the committee's only priority. Do the right thing and kill this bill.</p>
<p>Harlan Harclerode Against themselves</p>	<p>I am opposed to SB-003. This is an unconstitutional bill and will do nothing to improved the safety of people of this great state.</p>
<p>James Boyd Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for taking my testimony. I am the son of two immigrants, and a gun owner. This bill will only make it more difficult for the poor, disenfranchised, and disabled to get a firearm. Under the current wording of this bill, it would be easier for me to buy an SBR (short barreled rifle) or a machine gun (only cost prohibitive) than a semi auto AR-15. This bill is a waste of the paper it was written on,</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>James Boyd</p>
<p>Jennifer Rodolph For themselves</p>	<p>One week ago, only 20 minutes from this building, my teenage daughters had just arrived for the day at Golden High School. Over the loud speaker came an unplanned announcement for a lockdown and the students were all ushered to any space that has a lock on it. There they waited for an hour, while hearing the police yelling, and not knowing what was happening just outside the door. During that time they hid in the dark where hopefully no one would suspect they were hiding. Later my daughters were evacuated and sent home from school. Although this happened to be a case of a fake gun from a Halloween costume being brought to school, it reminds both students and parents of the danger they face each day at school due to gun violence. Incidents like this cause both fear and trauma in our kids and remind us that we need to better protect our children from gun violence by passing sensible gun legislation. Please do that today by voting yes for this bill.</p>
<p>Andrew Johnson Against</p>	<p>Andrew Johnson Loveland, CO</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>Testimony of Andrew Johnson against SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>As a father, SB25-003 has caused me concern over my 16-year-old son, Eli. He has long considered and looked forward to military service in the coming years. He has been active through the development of this bill and has personally watched many of the legislative sessions. Not only does he feel his second Amendment rights are at jeopardy, but He has also witnessed the negative light cast on our Veterans during the proceedings. Restricting the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens, especially the future generations of our crucial military will not result in reduction of crime committed by those who will inevitably not follow the law. I thank you for your consideration and ask you to oppose SB25-003.</p> <p>Sincerely, Andrew Johnson 3/10/2025</p>
<p>Justin Beard Against themselves</p>	<p>Please vote NO on SB-003! This bill is a mess... and will do nothing to combat crime nor dissuade criminals from using firearms illegally. What it will do though is make it burdensome for those inclined to follow the law in the first place.</p> <p>I guess one thing this does is make those who want to buy semi-automatic rifles more proficient in their use, whatever they may be inclined to use them for.</p>
<p>Robert Munger Against themselves</p>	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The merits of SB25-003 Have changed so much from their initial draft that this should have to be completely redrafted, they are not the same. 2) The intentions of this amended bill seem to be solely to place undue restrictions on those that follow the law; nothing in this proposed law has any mention of how it will reduce crime, reduce instances of violence or keep the people safe. It does however add undue stress to the law abiding citizens of Colorado attempting to live out their just, legal life in this state. 3) The attempt to move this from proposed law from a law enforcement controlled action to department of wildlife controlled process is simply a gross work around to escape tax implications. Stated more plainly, it is a gross attempt to jam though the ideology of the political elite on the subordinates also known as your constituency. 4) It would seem that all the promises of last years "common sense gun control," was irrelevant, as some of the items passed last year haven't even taken effect in the state and yet the legislature feels the need to cram more through on the people to save "us" from the unsuccessful control passed last year. New year, new bill same attempts by the same people to inflict limitations on those that follow the law.

	<p>5) SB25-003 will not improve safety in the state, it will allow unfettered and unregulated control over the people by those that skirt elections by resignation and appointment.</p> <p>6) I urge you to table this bill and pause any further legislative actions that further restrict the rights of the people in the state of Colorado, protect Article II section 13 protect the future of colorado that would want to live and protect themselves here in this great state!</p>
<p>Kelly Hegarty Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Colorado Legislature and House Judiciary Committee ,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, concerning prohibited activity involving semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices. Upon thorough analysis, I believe this bill infringes upon fundamental principles of liberty and raises significant constitutional concerns.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individual Rights: The bill proposes to ban the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, or purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms, encompassing many commonly owned rifles, shotguns, and handguns. This broad prohibition infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms for self-defense and other lawful purposes. 2. Personal Responsibility: By imposing blanket restrictions on firearm transactions, the bill undermines the principle that individuals are responsible for their actions. Instead of targeting criminal misuse of firearms, it penalizes responsible gun owners and dealers who comply with existing laws. 3. Free Markets: The proposed restrictions would disrupt lawful commerce in the firearms industry, affecting manufacturers, dealers, and consumers. This intervention contradicts the principle of free markets by imposing unnecessary limitations on legal businesses and transactions. 4. Property Rights: The bill's provisions could lead to the devaluation of legally owned firearms and accessories, effectively infringing upon individuals' property rights without just compensation. 5. Limited Government: Enacting such expansive regulations represents an overreach of governmental authority into the private lives of citizens, conflicting with the principle of limited government. 6. State vs. Federal Balance of Power: Firearm regulation often falls under federal jurisdiction. This state-level bill may lead to legal conflicts and challenges, disrupting the balance of power between state and federal authorities.

	<p>7. Fiscal Responsibility: Implementing and enforcing the provisions of this bill would require substantial state resources, including law enforcement and administrative oversight, raising concerns about fiscal responsibility.</p> <p>8. Equal Protection/Rule of Law: The bill could disproportionately affect certain groups, including firearm retailers and lawful gun owners, leading to potential unequal treatment under the law.</p> <p>Additional Evaluation Criteria:</p> <p>Duplication of Existing Programs: There are already federal and state regulations overseeing firearm transactions and ownership. This bill may result in unnecessary duplication of existing laws.</p> <p>Impact on Property and Business Owners: Firearm dealers and related businesses would face significant operational challenges, potentially leading to closures and economic losses.</p> <p>Local vs. State Oversight: Firearm issues can often be addressed more effectively at the local level, tailored to specific community needs, rather than through broad state mandates.</p> <p>Beneficiaries and Potential Harm: While aiming to enhance public safety, the bill may harm law-abiding citizens and businesses without effectively deterring criminal activity.</p> <p>Senate Bill 25-003 presents numerous concerns regarding individual liberties, constitutional rights, and effective governance. I urge you to reconsider this legislation and explore alternative measures that address public safety without compromising the foundational principles of our society.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kelly Hegarty</p>
Patrick Hegarty Against	Dear Members of the Colorado Legislature and House Judiciary Committee,

<p>themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 25-003. While public safety is an important concern, this legislation unfairly targets law-abiding citizens and businesses without effectively addressing crime. The bill imposes broad restrictions on the sale, transfer, and possession of commonly owned semiautomatic firearms, violating the Second Amendment rights of Coloradans. Millions of responsible gun owners use these firearms for self-defense, sport, and recreation, yet this bill punishes them instead of focusing on criminal misuse.</p> <p>Beyond the constitutional concerns, SB25-003 places an unfair burden on businesses and property owners. Firearm retailers and manufacturers, many of whom have operated legally under existing laws, would face severe economic harm. This legislation disrupts lawful commerce, discourages investment in the state, and could lead to job losses. Additionally, by restricting ownership and transfers, the bill diminishes the value of legally owned firearms, infringing on property rights without compensation.</p> <p>This bill also represents an unnecessary expansion of government power. Firearm regulations already exist at both the state and federal levels, making this legislation duplicative and excessive. Enforcing these new restrictions will require significant taxpayer resources, diverting funds from essential public services. More government oversight does not necessarily mean better outcomes, especially when current laws already provide a framework for responsible gun ownership.</p> <p>Furthermore, SB25-003 has serious unintended consequences. Restrictive firearm laws tend to disproportionately impact law-abiding citizens rather than criminals, who by definition do not follow gun laws. Instead of addressing the root causes of violent crime, this bill creates more obstacles for responsible individuals. The inclusion of a safety clause is particularly troubling, as it limits public discourse and prevents voters from challenging the bill through a referendum. This approach undermines the democratic process and silences the voices of concerned citizens.</p> <p>Rather than enacting ineffective bans, lawmakers should focus on enforcing existing laws, strengthening mental health resources, and addressing the social conditions that contribute to crime. Public safety cannot be achieved by restricting the rights of responsible citizens, but by targeting criminal behavior directly. For these reasons, I urge you to vote against SB25-003 and consider alternative approaches that uphold constitutional freedoms while addressing safety concerns.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Patrick Hegarty, La Plata County, Durango CO</p>
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<p>Derek Baker</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>The 9th amendment protects all the amendments and guarantees all of them the same worth. This bill does not treat the 2nd amendment as an equal to all the rest. I ask that when you vote you don't think about restrictions being applied to firearms but you think about restricting all amendments because this bill opens up every amendment to restrictions. This is bigger than firearms. This is an attack on our constitutional rights. When one amendment can be restricted so much that it can hardly be practiced then all the amendments are in danger. This isn't a bill about firearms it's a bill about our constitutional rights. If you applied this type of restriction to the 12th amendment and required every person to present a card that they received training on voting would that be constitutional? Or if you limited the 1st with how many words someone can speak in a hearing would that be constitutional? These types of restrictions are only applied to the 2nd amendment, which demonstrates that the 2nd amendment isn't viewed as an equal when compared to any other amendment therefore these restrictions are unconstitutional. Unless the 9th amendment isn't as worthy either. We protect the 1st amendment with all our might, to the point where we allow burning our nation's flag as a demonstration of a 1st amendment. Why don't we protect every amendment the same. The 9th amendment says we do. Follow the 9th amendment and apply the same rules to the 2nd.</p>
<p>Ian Estis</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Not only is this blatantly unconstitutional and will never survive a court challenge after the Bruen decision but it has to be one of the dumbest ideas I've ever heard! When people commit mass shootings it has always been intentional! There has never been a mass accidental shooting! So why would a safety course help? Safety courses can only prevent accidents by teaching people how to use their guns properly but it won't stop anyone from deliberately using it to harm others! This is just another cost of time and money for people who follow the laws.</p> <p>If you want to reduce mass shootings you need to repeal gun free zones and sensitive spaces! Criminals know they can kill as many people as they want in these areas until police arrive since no one else can legally have a gun! It has been proven over and over that criminals don't follow these laws and you think a safety course will stop them?</p>
<p>Carol Callicotte-Belmon</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I strongly support this bill.</p> <p>Not long after the mass shooting at the King Soopers I sometimes frequent, where 10 of our neighbors and a responding police officer were murdered, I went grocery shopping. As I walked into the store, I had a moment of anxiety – I realized I was wearing flip flops, and a single thought plagued me as I froze in place: I can't run in these. What was I thinking.</p> <p>To live in this country is to live with restricted freedom: we are not free to go to grocery stores, churches, concerts, school, because we are the country where mass shootings occur on a regular basis. Colorado has experienced 61 mass shootings in</p>

	<p>the last 10 years, with 328 people shot, 82 people killed, and 246 people injured. (Source: CO Dept of Public Health&Environment) (1)</p> <p>This bill ensures that Coloradans can't get around our magazine limit by purchasing a weapon here and then crossing into any of the states that border us or going online and purchasing a high-capacity magazine that cannot be legally purchased in Colorado, a loophole the Boulder King Soopers and Club Q shooters took advantage of. We also know that many gun sellers in CO are not complying with the magazine limit.</p> <p>High-capacity detachable magazines are uniquely lethal and have been a key part of many of our deadliest mass shootings. Additionally, a study in 2018 estimated that guns equipped with high-capacity magazines account for 22 to 36 percent of crime guns in most places, and nearly 40 percent of cases involving serious violence, including homicides of law enforcement officers. (2)</p> <p>These statistics are the result of policy choices, where we have continued to allow weapons not suited for civilian use to be easily accessible. Colorado has taken great steps over the last several years to address the deep-rooted problem of gun violence in our communities. Two-thirds of Americans believe that high capacity magazines should not be available. (4) No one bill can solve everything, but this one will help make us all safer and more free to go about our daily lives without the constant threat of another gun-related tragedy. Please vote yes.</p> <p>(1) (https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-gun-violence-prevention-resource-bank/firearm-injury-and-death/mass-shootings?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--bcVj6sq9pba-KC4WXESZSuKdJjd1T0coy-5XR427dY_nFrsPSuFydBgNTDkN7qUJAsEg5N-ISd_yTynh95g0LY3SmEJg52yDEPRbEbhuui9Vxuk&_hsmi=344021986&utm_content=344021986&utm_source=hs_email)</p> <p>(2) Christopher S. Koper et al., "Criminal Use of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Semiautomatic Firearms: An Updated Examination of Local and National Sources," <i>Journal of Urban Health</i> 95, no. 3 (2018): 313–21</p> <p>(3). https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?_gl=1*ewn0oj*_ga*ODEyMzg5NjA2LjE3MjI5NTk5MDE.*_ga_68QYBV181T*MTczNzQ4NzE5NC4yNy4xLjE3Mzc0ODcxOTQuMC4wLjA.*_ga_1FTV9KT752*MTczNzQ4NzE5NS41LjAuMTczNzQ4NzE5NS4wLjAuMA..</p> <p>(4) https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/06/28/americans-views-of-specific-gun-policy-proposals/</p>
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<p>Devin Lorentzen Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill will not lower crime; People who commit crimes will obtain guns regardless of this law passing or not. The current slate of gun control laws in Colorado thus far have not been very effective evidently, since crime only appears to be going up year over year. People who commit crimes should not destroy the rights of law-abiding citizens; we all know this bill will NOT lower crime. People who commit crimes will have continued access to guns illegally. The law-abiding citizens will not have any choice but to jump through strenuous hoops, that which disproportionately affects the socioeconomically disadvantaged the most, to obtain the "okay" from the state government to own 85%-95% of the most popular firearms today.</p> <p>Not to mention this is an egregious violation of the Second Amendment of the Constitution, that which would not stand in state, federal or the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Please vote no on this bill.</p>
<p>Timothy Wilson Against themselves</p>	<p>I urge you to vote against advancement of SB 25-003. Please consider the following:</p> <p>1: SB 25-003 bill is inherently unconstitutional. Recent Supreme Court rulings as well as the recent striking down of an Illinois bill that was similar to this, will eventually lead to the striking down of this incredibly onerous piece of legislation. Requiring that purchasers be included on a "list" of approved purchasers has already been ruled unconstitutional and will be again.</p> <p>2: This horrid piece of legislation will do absolutely nothing to prevent crime. Requiring lawful purchasers to complete another educational program while ignoring the fact that criminals will "raise a middle finger" to this requirement is the ultimate slap in the face to honest Coloradoans.</p> <p>3: The list of proposed restricted firearms are guns that I have personally used safely since I was 7 years old. I currently hold a hunters safety card and a Concealed Handgun Permit. At 65, I can't fathom having to prove that I am capable of safely handling any gun. I enrolled my children in a shooting class at the age of 10 and they all currently enjoy shooting sports. They safely handle any gun. Imagine having to take hours of classes after you have driven a car for 40 years, with no accidents, pay additional fees , undergo a background check, just to justify your driving privilege every four years. And if you wanted to purchase a car, imagine the same requirement. While not an apple to apple comparison, it creates an example that hopefully you can relate to. Driving is a privilege not a constitutionally guaranteed right.</p> <p>4: The State of Colorado is currently addressing a one billion dollar deficit. Each defective law created by this legislature will require the State to provide funding to defend the issue in court and drive a deepening budget issue. Money spent on identifying criminal gun users, incarcerating them for the crime, and/or budgeting for mental health problems that lead to the use of a firearm in the commission of a</p>

	<p>crime would be wiser use of public funds and do more toward curbing “gun violence” than this unconstitutional legislation.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Claire Lucas For themselves</p>	<p>You know my story; I am one of millions of parents who has received the dreaded call. “Your child’s life is in danger.” So many Americans have had to live through the unthinkable, that they may never see their child again because someone with a gun is threatening their life.</p> <p>On average, each day 12 children die from gun violence in America. Another 32 are shot or injured. Since Columbine in 1999, more than 338,000 students in the U.S. have experienced gun violence at school.</p> <p>Most of us want sensible gun laws passed. Current polling shows that preventing gun violence is a top concern for Colorado voters.</p> <p>At least 8 out of the 10 highest-casualty mass shootings involved semi-automatic weapons and a high-capacity magazine.</p> <p>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>In the 2022 Colorado Springs ClubQ 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.</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>I beg you to support Senate Bill 25-003 that enforces Colorado’s high-capacity magazine ban (limit of 15 rounds) by prohibiting weapons that accept detachable magazines. Thank you.</p>
<p>Vi Macdonald For Students Demand Action</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Vi Macdonald, I am a freshman at East High School, and in the first week of school there was a shooting threat made. My sister has gone through three shootings and far too many threats. When I sat in my classroom three years ago and heard the news of a shooting at east, I had no way of contacting my sister. I fear my life</p>

	<p>walking through the hallways, and even further, I fear for my sisters. Mass shootings, made more accessible by easy access to firearms that can hold high capacity magazines, haunt my school, and others like it. My safety, my sister’s safety, my friends,</p> <p>my peers, and anyone who values their lives safety is at risk without enforcing this ban.</p> <p>Shootings and trauma caused by them can be easily prevented by enforcing the high capacity magazine ban. This bill will also stop dangerous after-market accessories that</p> <p>turn semi automatic firearms into machine guns. These weapons used in mass shootings are weapons of war that allow shooters to unleash rapid-fire barrages on victims using high-capacity magazines that are quick to reload. In Colorado, the rate of</p> <p>gun homicide increased 134% from 2014 to 2023. The easier the access to firearms that hold high capacity magazines, the higher increase in mass shootings and homicides. I stand in firm affirmation of this bill.</p>
<p>Alan Ridgway Against himself</p>	<p>I wish to express my extreme opposition to SB25-003. This bill will do nothing to reduce crime or increase public safety, but will instead place time and financial burdens on law-abiding citizens. Additionally, I question the constitutionality of this statute and the expense of litigating it when our state has hundreds of millions of dollars in budget deficits. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Alan B. Ridgway, D.D.S.</p>
<p>Michael Haspil Against himself</p>	<p>Testimony Against Colorado Senate Bill 25-003</p> <p>Submitted by Michael F. Haspil, Veteran; USAFA Graduate, Class of 1994; and Concealed Carry Permit Holder</p> <p>March 10, 2025</p> <p>Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly,</p> <p>My name is Michael Haspil. I am a proud veteran of the United States military, a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, and a concealed carry permit holder here in Colorado. I have dedicated years to rigorous firearms training, not out of hobby, but out of necessity—a necessity born from experience. Overseas, in a non-combat situation, I found myself under attack, defenseless, unable to protect myself or those I loved. That helplessness is a scar I carry, and it’s why I swore never to be in that position again. I chose Colorado as my home because I believed it was a place where freedom and responsibility were respected. But SB25-003 threatens that belief, and I urge you to reject this deeply flawed legislation.</p>

	<p>I stand before you not as a partisan, but as a citizen who has seen the world's dangers and cherishes the rights that define us as Americans. The Second Amendment is not a privilege to be doled out by the state—it is a right, enshrined in our Constitution alongside freedom of speech and religion. Yet, SB25-003 treats it as a permission slip, one we must beg for through a labyrinth of fees, training, fingerprinting, and background checks. This isn't just unprecedented—it's unconstitutional. The only parallel is Illinois' Firearms Owner's Identification (FOID) card, which a federal court recently struck down as a violation of our rights. Colorado should not follow a failed, unlawful model.</p> <p>A Veteran's Perspective: This Bill Undermines Our Rights</p> <p>As someone who has served this nation, I know the value of preparedness. My training isn't a casual pastime—it's a commitment to safety and responsibility. I have submitted myself to extensive background checks and fingerprinting because I have willingly undertaken the responsibility of being a concealed carry permit holder, a duty I take extremely seriously. I support the idea of firearms education in principle, but SB25-003 twists that into a punitive tool. It demands law-abiding citizens—veterans, parents, hunters—submit to fingerprinting, extensive background checks, and a state-managed "Firearms Safety Course Eligibility Card" just to exercise a right we already possess. This conflates us with criminals, treating every Coloradan who wants to defend their home as a suspect. We don't need permission to speak freely or worship as we choose—why must we grovel for the Second Amendment?</p> <p>A Caste System of Privilege</p> <p>This bill's requirements—multiple classes, fees for training, fingerprint processing, and a sheriff-issued card—create a financial and logistical burden that disproportionately harms the less fortunate. For a single parent in Denver working two jobs, or a rural family in the mountains scraping by, the costs and time commitments are insurmountable. A basic four-hour course, a 12-hour extended course over two days, travel expenses, and fees all add up to a financial burden citizens should not have to endure—these are luxuries for the wealthy, not rights for all. SB25-003 doesn't just restrict firearms; it builds a caste system where only the privileged can defend themselves. That's not equality—it's elitism dressed up as safety.</p> <p>A Bureaucratic Nightmare and Economic Blow</p> <p>Let's talk practicality. This "license to buy" scheme hinges on a system that doesn't even exist yet. The classes are undefined, the instructors unverified, and the Firearms Training and Safety Course Record System is a blank slate as of today, March 10, 2025. With an effective date of September 1, 2025, the state has less than six months to build this from scratch. The fiscal note estimates 50,000 people annually will seek</p>
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this card—50,000 background checks, 50,000 sets of fingerprints, 50,000 course completions. Sheriffs and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will be swamped, creating backlogs that could stretch years. I’ve seen government bottlenecks overseas and here at home—trust me, this will be a disaster.

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

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

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

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

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

No Safety Gains, Only Risks

Proponents claim this ban will reduce crime and enhance safety. The data says otherwise. Colorado’s murder rate doubled from 2013 to 2022, despite 23 gun control laws passed in the last 12 years—20 in the last five alone. Rifles and

	<p>shotguns, the bill’s primary targets, account for less than 0.089 murders per 100,000 people—fewer than 10 deaths statewide. This isn’t a solution; it’s a distraction. Meanwhile, the bill’s push for fixed magazines—exempting guns with epoxied or welded magazines of 15 rounds or less—creates a safety nightmare. Removable magazines are a cornerstone of safe firearm handling. Forcing users to shoot out rounds or disassemble loaded guns risks negligent discharges, especially in homes with children. This isn’t safer—it’s an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>A Blow to Rural Colorado and Vulnerable Communities</p> <p>For rural and mountain communities, this bill is a gut punch. Families in places like Gunnison or Craig rely on semi-automatic firearms for hunting, predator control, and self-defense—often miles from the nearest sheriff’s deputy. Requiring them to travel hours for undefined classes, pay fees they can’t afford, and wait out backlogs is not just inconvenient—it’s a threat to their way of life. Add in the bill’s failure to accommodate people with disabilities—no provisions for those with learning challenges or physical limitations—and you have a law that punishes the vulnerable while pretending to protect them.</p> <p>A Gun Registry in Disguise</p> <p>Make no mistake: the Firearms Training and Safety Course Record System is a gun owner registry by another name. Every cardholder, every course completion, tracked by the state. This isn’t about safety—it’s about surveillance. History shows registries lead to confiscation, and moderate Democrats should recoil at this overreach. Law-abiding citizens aren’t the enemy here.</p> <p>A Call to Reason</p> <p>I’ve faced danger without a means to fight back. I never thought I’d have to worry about that in Colorado. SB25-003 doesn’t just restrict guns—it restricts freedom, fairness, and common sense. It won’t stop crime, but it will spark panic buying, overwhelm state agencies, and leave countless Coloradans defenseless. This bill says our rights don’t matter.</p> <p>Colorado’s 1.9 million unaffiliated voters, representing nearly half the electorate, are increasingly fed up with partisan extremists on both sides of the aisle pushing divisive agendas like SB25-003, which threatens their constitutional rights and practical needs with an overreaching firearm ban. This bill’s burdensome requirements and economic fallout will alienate these independent voices, who crave sensible, balanced governance over ideological overreach.</p>
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	<p>To moderate Democrats: you have a chance to stand for equity, practicality, and the Constitution. Reject SB25-003. Let's protect Colorado, not punish it.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michael F. Haspil Concerned Coloradan</p>
<p>Miguel David Against himself</p>	<p>This bill is blatantly unconstitutional as it infringes upon fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, particularly the Second Amendment. Instead of targeting the root causes of crime or focusing on criminals, it punishes law-abiding citizens who respect the law and follow due process. By imposing unnecessary restrictions, it does nothing to deter real criminals, who will continue their illegal activities regardless of such legislation. This bill will only serve to further limit the freedoms of responsible citizens, while failing to address the real issues driving crime. Not only is this bill unconstitutional and ineffective, but it's also a waste of taxpayer money. Instead of addressing real issues like crime prevention, resources will be spent on enforcing unnecessary restrictions that won't stop criminals. Lawmakers pushing this bill risk political backlash—us constituents will see it as an overreach and will do everything possible to vote you out of office for prioritizing ineffective policies over real solutions.</p>
<p>Russell Dare Against himself</p>	<p>This proposed law would target the most common use firearms used by more than 3 million Coloradans. It even targets firearms that don't take detachable magazines by also mis-defining stripper clips as detachable magazines. The newly imposed restriction on common use firearms behind HOURS of required "training" is outright ridiculous, unconstitutional, and the people of Colorado won't stand for it. The changes to the bill are written completely nonsensically which makes the entire bill unconstitutionally vague from a legal standpoint. In a desperate 11th hour attempt to save the bill, the out of state special interest groups that wrote it and paid the bill authors to include a list of "exempt" firearms that are outright laughable. A list of non-used firearms leaving out the most common actually used firearms.</p> <p>Once more there were exemptions added for law enforcement who are known to have significantly higher rates of domestic violence than non law enforcement. So long as this exemption remains part of the bill, complying with it should it pass and be signed into law is not even an option on the table.</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>The state is in a financial crisis and can not survive a torrent of unwinnable lawsuits. This bill flies in the face of the Colorado state constitution as well.</p> <p>Superior, Louisville, Boulder, and Boulder County already has the court blocking their much less restrictive 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>Former California Governor Brown's veto message regarding a very similar ban:</p> <p>"I don't believe that this bill's blanket ban on semi-automatic rifles would reduce criminal activity or enhance public safety enough to warrant this infringement on gun owners' rights,</p> <p>The nearly 3 million firearm owners in Colorado agree with him.</p> <p>The fixed magazine versions of firearms referenced in the bill is a disingenuous suggestion that's outright dangerous. Firearm safety is paramount and clearing a malfunction must be done in a safe way. Being able to remove the magazine from a firearm is a critical component to resolving a malfunction in a firearm in a safe and responsible manner. It's clear that the authoring organization pushing this bill has a dangerously low understanding of firearm safety and is looking to put lives in jeopardy.</p> <p>The fact that this bill was even introduced is alarming to the good people of Colorado. This problem needs to be fixed. Please stand with the people and vote this down. Now more than ever we need to focus on unity, kindness, and peace. Separating Denver/Boulder from the rest of the state who will openly disregard this law proudly is not the Colorado we need to move forward.</p>
<p>Richard Stefanko Jr Against themselves</p>	<p>Honorable Judicial Committee,</p> <p>I want to strongly urge you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 25-003. 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>I am a military Special Operations veteran and have spent a good part of my life living daily with these types of weapons. They are not any more dangerous than any other firearm. What makes them dangerous is the owner of the trigger finger.</p>

	<p>This gun ban disguised as a “mechanism of enforcement for an existing high-capacity magazine ban” would restrict access to many of the most popular firearms.</p> <p>Now, as amended, the state would require a permit to purchase these firearms, which would require law-abiding gun owners to pay for both the permit and the necessary classes. Requiring lawful gun owners to pay for access is placing a tax on the ability to exercise Second Amendment rights. The arduous requirement of training, testing, and certification will fall upon our already strained law enforcement and take away resources that could be used to fight real crime. Allowing law enforcement to arbitrarily decide who is permitted to purchase these firearms is a violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. For a state with a rural population that depends on revenue from hunting and shooting sports, current legislation is very unfriendly towards gun owners. It is especially confusing for the thousands of non-resident hunters who provide state funding through license fees and small business patronage.</p> <p>Gun violence is not a gun problem but a people problem. A gun is an inanimate object and its use for good or evil is determined by the one who holds it. More laws will only serve to burden those who choose to follow them, bad actors do not follow the laws so there will be no effect on them. As much as we think that legislative mandates “force compliance,” all humans have free will and cannot be forced to do or not do anything. Murder is already illegal. Let’s work on the root problem, mental health, and not the symptoms.</p>
<p>Bradford Saint Matthew For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Bradford St. Matthew, and I live in Arvada. I have a vision where I feel safe in my community, Arvada, and Colorado. I am passionate about safety, and I am advocating for SB25-003: Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices to continue to keep us safe. I want to live in a world where I don’t have to look over my shoulder when I am at King Soopers or when I go to the movie theatre, thinking that someone there could harm me or my community. I want to be safe and feel safe. I want that for my friends, for you, and for our communities. Please vote yes on this bill to enforce Colorado’s current high-capacity magazine ban which will keep everyone safe. Thank you for your support to keep us all safe.</p>
<p>Gwendy hartsell Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello. Thank you for your service to Colorado</p> <p>As a resident of Colorado since 1975 (when I was 5) I love our state. I am very disappointed in SB25-003 and the twists and turns it has taken as I've watched it go through.</p> <p>This bill is unconstitutional and the most recent piece ai am hearing about asking CPW to manage this is in my opinion a way to hide revenue and avoid tabor.</p> <p>I respectfully ask for a no vote.</p> <p>Sincerely Gwendy Hartsell</p>

<p>Jack Sosebee Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is an affront to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Colorado. It blatantly violates our rights under both Constitutions, and will do absolutely nothing to reduce crime. Similar laws have already, and repeatedly, been struck down by several courts, and this will be struck down as well. Please respect our rights, and don't waste your time and ours passing legislation that will certainly be declared unconstitutional.</p>
<p>Ben Garvia Against themselves</p>	<p>I Ben Garcia would like to say, I'm against SB25-003 the gun ban . For reasons that this ban does everything for criminal and absolutely nothing for Law abiding citizens . It stripes law abiding citizens of their right to bear arms for self and family protection just because technology has changed doesn't mean our rights to bear arms has. People of all kinds use firearms to put food on the table, to protect their families, a single mother has the right to protect herself and her kids this ban will take that away from her. This individual are their own first responder not a 911 call that could be to late. This ban takes people's livelihood away, the way they feed their families , law enforcement will have to go back to the cowboy days and holster revolvers six shooters, a step back fighting criminals. This bill has so much in it that is unconditional. This bill is big for backing the criminal element. The state wants to put non elected groups to run this legislation that wrong. The procedures the state wants to enact are nothing but monetary burden on the good citizen, this bill has nothing addressing criminals it's a gold mine for them. This is not nazi Germany we have a system for the people by the people not a tyranny government which this government would be if this bill is past. THE 2ND AMENDMENT IS A GOD GIVEN RIGHT THAT SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED .</p>
<p>Ben Garvia Against themselves</p>	<p>I Ben Garcia would like to say, I'm against SB25-003 the gun ban . For reasons that this ban does everything for criminal and absolutely nothing for Law abiding citizens . It stripes law abiding citizens of their right to bear arms for self and family protection just because technology has changed doesn't mean our rights to bear arms has. People of all kinds use firearms to put food on the table, to protect their families, a single mother has the right to protect herself and her kids this ban will take that away from her. This individual are their own first responder not a 911 call that could be to late. This ban takes people's livelihood away, the way they feed their families , law enforcement will have to go back to the cowboy days and holster revolvers six shooters, a step back fighting criminals. This bill has so much in it that is unconditional. This bill is big for backing the criminal element. The state wants to put non elected groups to run this legislation that wrong. The procedures the state wants to enact are nothing but monetary burden on the good citizen, this bill has nothing addressing criminals it's a gold mine for them. This is not nazi Germany we have a system for the people by the people not a tyranny government which this government would be if this bill is past. THE 2ND AMENDMENT IS A GOD GIVEN RIGHT THAT SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED .</p>
<p>Sadie Mattson For</p>	<p>My name is Sadie Mattson, and I am part of Students Demand Action at Fairview High School. I am in full support of SB 25-003, and I would firstly like to thank you for this opportunity to share my stance and thoughts. My personal connection to</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>gun violence comes from fear and anxiety around the topic. I will never forget the day when our home grocery store king soopers was shot during spring break in my middle school year. My family and I were in California soaking up sun when we heard the news. I felt helpless knowing that I couldn't help my dear family and friends who were in Boulder from going to the grocery store and getting their innocent lives taken away from them. The man that shot the grocery store had a Ruger AR-556 which is a gun capable of accepting a detachable magazine, which took many lives away in a very short time. By passing this bill, safeguards would be put in place to stop people who wish to do harm from getting a firearm capable of being paired with an illegal high-capacity magazine. This will save so many innocent lives. In conclusion, I urge you to think of the lives lost, and the lives that will be saved. The impacts of this bill will be enormous, so please vote in favor of it.</p>
<p>Grace Calabrese For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Grace Calabrese, and I am part of Student Demand Action at Fairview High School. My organization and I support bill SB25-003 to enforce the ban on high-powered magazines. My peers and I have witnessed how gun violence can affect a community, and we are passionate about implementing change locally and nationally. From the tragic King Soopers shooting less than a mile away from where we go to high school to the constant threat of automatic weaponry being accessible to the public, now is the time to demand action against gun violence. As students, we are asking for common-sense solutions that prioritize public safety. By supporting this bill, you are advocating for a future where our schools, homes, and our state in its entirety are safer. We demand action against gun violence for both our lives and everyone else in Colorado.</p>
<p>James Harada For themselves</p>	<p>My name is James Harada and I am part of Students Demand Action at Fairview High School. Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts, as I am STRONGLY in support of bill SB 25-003. Throughout my life, I have heard of shootings and other terrible events, but what I have not heard is actual laws being passed. I strongly believe that in order for change to happen, laws need to be enacted, so it is extraordinarily meaningful to me that people realize the impact this bill can have and this bill is passed. In the 2021 Boulder King Soopers shooting, the gunman used a semi-automatic weapon and a high capacity magazine, which made him able to kill 10 innocent people. If there had been a strong magazine capacity limit without loopholes, then fewer people would have been torn away from the Boulder community. I hope this proves how this bill will make a real impact and will prevent innocent people from being ripped from our communities and families.</p>
<p>Joseph Perry Against themselves</p>	<p>In addition to doing nothing effective about gun crime except to swell the list of criminals by converting citizens to misdemeanants, this bill conditions the exercise of an enumerated right on payment of fees and requirement for passage of a state-certified class. As such its direct analog is the poll tax, except that this is worse. That required payment to exercise a right; this in addition interposes the fiat of the state between citizen and the exercise of their right. While I am confident it will be found unconstitutional, it will waste time and taxes before it is obviated. I request you vote against it.</p>
<p>Eric Jeffery Against</p>	<p>Please vote against this unconstitutional bill. It violated the 2nd Aflame directly and precedents Heller, Bruen, and McDonald all recently affirm the unconstitutional</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>nature of this bill. If it passes Colorado will have to spend countless dollars in court defending it. Dollars better used elsewhere.</p> <p>Additionally, this bill does nothing other than turn law abiding citizens into outlaws. Criminals will ignore this legislation as they ignore other gun laws and laws against murder and the like.</p> <p>Please vote against this bill and save everyone a lot of pain, money, and headache.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Eric Jeffery</p> <p>Native, Angel, Buffalo</p>
<p>Brent Buckardt</p> <p>Against</p> <p>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. 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. 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 this do you not understand? The second amendment doesn't grant me the right to bare arms god does. The second amendment was written to ristRICT the government and make sure the people had the ability fight off ALL ENIMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.</p>
<p>Jamie Wilson</p> <p>Against</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>I am a native to Colorado, I am a law biding citizen, and I am a gun owner. I have lived here my entire life. (55years) What is happening to our once beautiful, SAFE, state is a travesty. This bill is something that should be voted on by the people!! The sponsors of this bill do not speak for the people! I have the right to protect myself and my children. This bill takes that right away from me and protects criminals. Stop protecting criminals! DO NOT PASS THIS!!!</p>
<p>Jeffrey Kocher</p> <p>Against</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>As a Colorado citizen, I have long enjoyed protection of my second Amendment rights. This bill is an attempt to unconstitutionally infringe our rights to legally obtain the most common fire arms in general use, firearms used routinely for hunting, sport shooting and personal protection. The absurd and illegal system it seeks to create will disenfranchise the poorer citizens of our state, and by extension we can say that it is not only unconstitutional but racist. It is hard to image the lack of understanding of settled constitutional law that would allow crafting of this bill, giving a local sheriff authority to block your ability to legally obtain a firearm based on his whim regarding your moral character. Representatives who knowingly vote for a bill they know is unconstitutional are attacking Democracy and will not be elected again.</p>
<p>Zana Prospero</p> <p>For</p>	<p>Members of the Colorado State Legislature,</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>My name is Zana Prospero, and I'm a Junior that started a Students Demand Action chapter in Fairview High School. I am terrified of the prevalent issue of gun violence, so today I urge your support for bill 25-003, which aims to enforce Colorado's existing high capacity magazine ban. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this bill.</p> <p>The personal experience of me and my classmates has been, at the least, alarming. We have had several shooter threats at school throughout the years, and it doesn't help that a few minutes away, walking distance, is a place where devastation happened - the King Soopers shooting. Every time I step foot there, I think about the ten innocent people that were unfairly massacred. My heart goes out to everyone grieving from that.</p> <p>The reason that so many died so fast, the reason that not even an officer could stop him, was because of his gun, attached with a high capacity magazine. In mass shootings with four or more people killed between 2015 and 2022, high-capacity magazines led to more than twice as many people killed, and nearly 10 times as many people wounded per incident on average.</p> <p>When making your decision today, I urge you to compare the impacts of either allowing more people to access these cruel weapons, or to restrict their access. High capacity magazines make shootings more deadly and shootings involving high capacity magazines have more fatalities and wounds than those that do not.</p> <p>Your vote in favor of the bill will save lives. If you vote against, you're not acknowledging the lives lost, the lives that will be lost. Thank you.</p>
<p>Zana Prospero For themselves</p>	<p>Members of the Colorado State Legislature,</p> <p>My name is Zana Prospero, and I'm a Junior that started a Students Demand Action chapter in Fairview High School. I am terrified of the prevalent issue of gun violence, so</p>

	<p>today I urge your support for bill 25-003, which aims to enforce Colorado’s existing high capacity magazine ban. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this bill.</p> <p>The personal experience of me and my classmates has been, at the least, alarming. We have had several shooter threats at school throughout the years, and it doesn’t help that a few minutes away, walking distance, is a place where devastation happened - the King Soopers shooting. Every time I step foot there, I think about the ten innocent people that were unfairly massacred. My heart goes out to everyone grieving from that.</p> <p>The reason that so many died so fast, the reason that not even an officer could stop him, was because of his gun, attached with a high capacity magazine. In mass shootings with four or more people killed between 2015 and 2022, high-capacity magazines led to more than twice as many people killed, and nearly 10 times as many people wounded per incident on average.</p> <p>When making your decision today, I urge you to compare the impacts of either allowing more people to access these cruel weapons, or to restrict their access. High capacity magazines make shootings more deadly and shootings involving high capacity magazines have more fatalities and wounds than those that do not.</p> <p>Your vote in favor of the bill will save lives. If you vote against, you’re not acknowledging the lives lost, the lives that will be lost. Thank you.</p>
<p>Josh Van Gaalen Against himself</p>	<p>I strongly oppose this bill as I believe it infringes on my right to bare arms. I also believe, as a law abiding gun owner/Hunter/recreational shooter, that further legislation restricting gun ownership only penalizes those who are interested in following rules and laws, such as myself. People who operate outside of the law are unaffected by more legislation. I believe the bill will only hinder lawful access to said firearms, and will pose little or no obstacle to criminals who obtain them in ways other than lawful.</p>
<p>Evie Hudak For</p>	<p>Colorado PTA strongly supports Senate Bill 003. PTA supports sensible gun safety and violence prevention policies that will help keep children safe. We have a long history of advocacy for the safety of children and youth, and one of our highest</p>

<p>Colorado PTA</p>	<p>priorities is to protect them from gun violence. Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens. Approximately 3 million American children witness gun violence every year. Beyond the deadly effects of gun violence, this exposure impacts our children’s mental and physical health throughout adulthood.</p> <p>PTA supports the passage of laws that ban bump stocks, semi-automatic assault weapons, and large-capacity ammunition magazines. Practical gun safety and violence prevention legislation will protect not just our children but all Americans from gun violence while at the same time respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners.</p> <p>No parent should fear for the safety of their child every time they leave home. But all too often, young lives are destroyed or changed forever due to gun violence and other forms of violence in the places our children should be the safest—their communities. More must be done immediately to protect our nation’s most vulnerable population. It’s up to all of us—community members, parents, educators, and other child well-being advocates—to work together to prevent gun violence. We hope to see this bill pass.</p>
<p>Joshua Barnett Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is an affront to the idea of liberty this great nation is founded upon. Per Bruen, it also violates that ruling, which found unconstitutional any restraint or infringement on historic firearm restrictions. The idea of a registry has also been found constitutionally wanting. If this bill passes, it will be challenged, and successfully, meaning all you are doing is wasting our money to instill an obviously unconstitutional process and statute and then use our money again to pointlessly defend something that will inevitably be struck down. It's a bad bill. Vote against it.</p>
<p>Corinne Carpenter For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>As gun violence continues to devastate communities across Colorado, our state needs to take action to address the state’s existing high-capacity magazine ban by ensuring that individuals seeking to purchase semi-automatic military style weapons with detachable magazines receive a permit and safety training in order to do so.</p> <p>I am asking you to vote in favor of SB-003 in order to ensure the safety of all Coloradoans. I ask you as a lifelong Coloradan, a Columbine survivor, and a mother of 2 little girls in Jefferson County. Please consider passing SB-003 to close the loophole.</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 after the Aurora theater shooting where 12 people were killed and more than 70 injured, the existing law makes it dangerously easy for mass shooters and criminals to evade, as they can</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>This bill creates a permit to purchase semi automatic military-style weapons with detachable magazines. Requiring individuals to apply for and receive a card (often referred to as purchase permit) prior to a firearm purchase gives law enforcement an opportunity to deny permits to those who pose a danger to public safety, ensure that all firearm purchasers have completed a rigorous safety training course, and complete a thorough background check.</p> <p>In order to address Colorado’s existing high-capacity magazine prohibition loophole, Colorado should pass SB 003, a bill prohibiting the purchase and sale of all rapid fire conversion devices and establishing a permit to purchase dangerous semi-automatic military style firearms that can accept high capacity magazines.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration,</p> <p>Corinne Carpenter</p>
<p>James Berta Against themselves</p>	<p>NO! Just stop!</p>
<p>Dawn Pare For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Dawn Pare and I am writing to encourage this legislative body to pass SB 25-003. As a former educator, I am fully aware of the devastation that can be caused by high-capacity firearms. Throughout my years as an educator and administrator, we planned how to keep students and staff safe in the event of yet another school shooting. This bill to demand fixed magazines allows more time while the shooter pauses to get students and staff to safety and for law enforcement and safety officers time to respond. Every second counts in these situations and every second is the difference in whether we save a life or not. Although I’m speaking specifically to schools, this also applies to any situation in which the public is vulnerable. We have already lost too many to those with the ability to purchase a firearm and use a detachable high-capacity magazine, much like the King Soopers shooter used. It is imperative that we follow through with the intent of the limit on high-capacity magazines to 15 rounds to save lives and save families from the devastation of losing loved ones.</p>
<p>Kevin Cutter Against themselves</p>	<p>Hi, my name is Kevin Cutter. I began shooting at a young age, learned responsibility through my family and Boy Scouts, and now work within the firearm industry. This bill is not only unconstitutional prohibiting people from being able to defend themselves, but targets low income individuals, families, and hard workers. This bill puts a paywall up for getting training to own the firearms targeted in this bill, which restricts those who may need them the most do defend themselves. A single mother,</p>

	<p>who works several jobs getting threatened by an ex-boyfriend would if this were to pass, have to receive training approved by the State, fingerprinting, be put on a registry, and now wait 72 hours to exercise her God given right to defend herself. This bill not only targets low income individuals but also those in the competition shooting community. The competition shooting community is rapidly growing here in the state of Colorado. This would restrict so many individuals from being able to compete and train by restricting access. If you want to promote safe firearm usage, encourage more people to go and shoot matches and competitions, not uproot and destroy a growing scene in Colorado. Third, this bill is completely unconstitutional. You are elected officials who have a duty to defend our democracy, our constitution. This bill undermines the second amendment. The right, not the privilege. Creating a mandatory training, fees, fingerprinting, and documentation removes the ability to call this a right. The state of Colorado is pushing to change that to a privilege. You have the power to defend our democracy and our rights or to destroy 238 years of democracy and freedom. I implore you to make the right call. I have seen more diversity come want to learn to defend themselves in the last year than ever before. I have seen more people want to take their safety seriously, as struggling police forces, gangs, cartels, homelessness, crime, illegals, and so much more, have become far too common. You are undermining the community you are meant to represent and protect, putting them in more danger. The criminals already do not care about your restrictions in the slightest. This is placing emotion before logic, targeting lawful gun owners and low income individuals. The assault weapons you claim make up a small minority of crimes committed in Colorado every year with a firearm. This is using that as a scapegoat, instead of solving the root cause of the issue. Vote No.</p>
<p>Sheila Wheeler For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you sponsors for bringing this important bill. My name is Sheila, I am testifying on behalf of myself, and I strongly ask that you vote yes on this bill.</p> <p>I am a 9 year Colorado resident, small business owner, and commercial banker. This bill improves safety for all Coloradans and puts the responsibility on the firearms manufacturing industry to produce firearms that are compliant.</p> <p>Please vote yes on this important public health bill.</p> <p>Thank you, Sheila</p>
<p>James Berta Against themselves</p>	<p>As it has been widely reported that our tax dollars have been sent to special interest groups who "support" certain politicians to do their "anti-freedom" bidding, one must wonder how much these payments are behind the SB25-003 push.</p> <p>We all know that there is no politician who cares for me more than they care for their own wallet!</p> <p>There is no sense for me to argue the unconstitutionality of the proposed law, because money in the pocket trumps that.</p> <p>I am just here to say, stop with the false premise that SB25-003 is about safety, we aren't that stupid.</p>

<p>Alex Pacheco</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>If this bill were to pass, how would future unarmed residents of colorado that don't have the time and/or money to get the permits to buy a gun, be able to defend themselves against a person looking to kill them?</p> <p>How would you stop a new resident that moves from a gun friendly state with their legally obtained firearms from having their restricted firearm?</p>
<p>James Berta</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Some Supreme Court guidance:</p> <p>"The Supremacy Clause of the Constitution of the United States (Article VI, Clause 2) establishes that the Constitution, federal laws made pursuant to it, and treaties made under its authority, constitute the "supreme Law of the Land", and thus take priority over any conflicting state laws. United States v. Lopez, 514 U.S. 549 (1995) This case was actually a major Commerce Clause case, but it's in this list of Second Amendment Supreme Court cases because when SCOTUS ruled the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 unconstitutional, they further limited how the federal government could regulate (or restrict) gun rights. District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) The Court ruled the Second Amendment to reference an individual right, holding: The Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as but not limited to self-defense. McDonald v. City of Chicago, 561 U.S. 742 (2010) The Supreme Court ruled that the Second Amendment was incorporated against state & local governments, through the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. It held that Second Amendment protections apply at the state level through "selective incorporation" under the Fourteenth Amendment. SCOTUS repeated that individual self-defense was at the core of the Second Amendment. Meaning, the constitutional right to bear arms (and its protections as stated in Heller) prohibits states from enacting bans on weapons for self-defense. Caetano v. Massachusetts, 136 S. Ct. 1027 (2016) breakdown: (per curiam) - The Court ruled that the Second Amendment extends to all forms of bearable arms: The Court has held that the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding, and that this Second Amendment right is fully applicable to the States."</p>
<p>Laura Powell</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Laura Powell</p> <p>Regarding SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices</p> <p>3/11/2025</p> <p>Hello House Judiciary Committee Members,</p>

	<p>My name is Laura Powell. I was born and raised in Colorado and am a current resident of Colorado Springs. I am writing in support of Senate Bill SB25-003, which is to enforce the state’s existing high-capacity magazine ban by banning the purchase and sale of military-style firearms that accept detachable magazines.</p> <p>My story is that I had the opportunity to live abroad for almost ten years before returning to my hometown of Colorado. In ten years, Colorado experienced 61 mass shootings with 328 people shot. Meanwhile, the country I was living in at the time experienced zero mass shootings in the last 10 years. Having experienced firsthand the reality of a community without mass shootings, I am too afraid to start a family in Colorado. It is evidently just a matter of time before the next mass shooting gets me or someone I love next. For three years straight guns have been the leading cause of death for children and teens in the USA. How could I bring a child into this state? But not all guns are the same, and different types of guns lead to more deaths.</p> <p>This is why Senate Bill SB25-003 is so important to me. Semiautomatic firearms and rapid-firing devices enable not just bad people, but good people on a bad day, to murder many people in a very short amount of time, such as when a shooter in Dayton Ohio used an AR-15-style assault pistol equipped with a 100-round drum magazine to shoot 26 people, nine fatally, in only 32 seconds. By enforcing the prohibition of weapons that accept detachable magazines, we can force future perpetrators to have to spend an extra 30 seconds or so to reload their guns. Thirty whole seconds! It took thirty seconds to shoot almost 30 people. How many lives could have been saved in Ohio that day if that perpetrator had access to only a different type of gun that forced them to reload manually more often?</p> <p>Please give me those 30 seconds. This is not an unreasonable ask. As any one of us could be one of those 30 people next. Please give all of us this small chance to stay alive the next mass shooting that occurs in Colorado.</p> <p>Please pass SB25-003. Thank you for reading my testimony.</p>
<p>Michael Shannon Against himself</p>	<p>SB25-003 is an unconstitutional infringement on our Second Amendment rights. This bill effectively bans commonly owned semi-automatic firearms by requiring a 90% passing score on a state-sanctioned course, disenfranchising those who may struggle with standardized testing, including individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>The exorbitant cost of the required training and the potential four-year wait times create an undue burden on law-abiding citizens seeking to exercise their fundamental right to self-defense. Furthermore, the bill’s requirement for registration in a firearms safety course record system resembles unconstitutional "firearm owner identification" schemes previously struck down by federal courts.</p>

	<p>SB25-003 not only violates our constitutional rights but also carries a significant economic burden, with estimated annual costs reaching \$34 million (including lost tax revenue). This bill prioritizes bureaucratic hurdles over individual liberty and will ultimately leave Coloradans less safe.</p>
<p>Mark Hadley Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I oppose this bill for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. It adds process to the legal sale and transfer of firearms that will have no effect on the illegal sale of the same firearms. Most crimes are not committed with licensed and legally purchased firearms. According to https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/suficspi16.pdf:</p> <p>The statistics on registered vs. unregistered firearms used in crimes reveal some interesting insights:</p> <p>Registered Firearms: A very small percentage of firearms used in crimes are obtained from retail sources. For instance, fewer than 2% of all prisoners had obtained a firearm from a retail source and used it during the offense for which they were imprisoned.</p> <p>Unregistered Firearms: A significant portion of firearms used in crimes are unregistered. Among prisoners who possessed a firearm during their offense, more than half (56%) had either stolen it, found it at the scene of the crime, or obtained it from the street or underground market. Additionally, about 25% had obtained it from a family member or friend, or as a gift¹.</p> <p>Please vote against this bill! The increased government cost in administration will not provide significant benefit to our state but will increase the flow of unregistered firearms. Current firearm registration and background checks already provide sufficient firearm tracking and limit purchases to legal citizens with no criminal backgrounds.</p> <p>Respectfully, Mark Hadley</p>
<p>Ethan Manis Against themselves</p>	<p>As Colorado state legislators, you all swore oaths support and uphold the constitution of the United States as well as the constitution of Colorado, and to faithfully perform the duties of your respective offices. The fact we've reached this point proves a significant portion of our state's legislative body have either forgotten about their oaths and duties, or worse, willfully chosen to disregard them. I'm incredibly angry. I'm angry because, recently, fighting for our rights has become a yearly event; the same rights which this body claims to be protecting. I'm angry</p>

	<p>because many of you have made it crystal clear that you value the opinions of your peers and donors over your constituents, the very constituents who elected you.</p> <p>SB25-003 is, quite possibly, the most egregious bill in our state’s history. Initially a sweeping weapons ban which has now morphed into pay-to-play scheme. Bruen, Heller, and Brown have already deemed every aspect of this bill unconstitutional. If it passes, it will be overturned. Enforcement of this bill necessitates the creation of a firearms registry; such registries have already been deemed unconstitutional and illegal. Constitutionality aside, SB25-003 attempts to fundamentally transform our God-given right into a privilege. One which would only be afforded to those who are wealthy enough, well-abled enough, and have enough spare time to attend the rigorous training this bill requires. Colorado is currently \$24.79 billion in debt. SB25-003 will strain our state’s finances. Washington State is, unfortunately, proposing a similar bill; albeit with significantly fewer requirements, comparable to Colorado’s CCW process. They estimate their bill will cost their state approximately \$58 million. Being that SB25-003 has significantly more requirements, it will undoubtedly cost significantly more. Passing SB25-003 would be fiscally irresponsible.</p> <p>As elected officials, you answer to us, the people of Colorado; not your peers and certainly not your donors. Make no mistake, we are watching you all closely. A “yes” vote on SB25-003 sends a clear message to us, your constituents, that you do not care. Rest assured that we will make it our mission to remove you from your seats using all legal means available. Our message should be loud and clear at this point, “the people of Colorado will not tolerate any attempts to restrict any of our constitutional rights”.</p>
<p>William Marshall Against themselves</p>	<p>In its first ever Gun Laws Scorecard in 2013, Giffords Law Center gave Colorado a "C." That year, Colorado's gun-related homicide rate was 2.0 per 100,000. By 2023, Colorado had "improved" all the way to an A-.</p> <p>Wow!</p> <p>The state’s gun homicide rate last year was 4.5 per 100,000, more than double what it was when Giffords scored the state a much worse grade than now. The vast majority of gun crime in Colorado and the USA involve low capacity handguns that are stolen or acquired illegally. These gun laws just harass law-abiding gun owners. They demonstrably do not reduce crime.</p> <p>Vote No on SB25-003.</p>
<p>Jacob Thomas Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the amendments to Senate Bill 25-003, "Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices," passed by the Colorado Senate on February 14, 2025. While these new amendments, particularly the exemption for individuals who complete a firearms safety course and obtain a sheriff-issued eligibility card, may appear to soften the original outright ban on certain</p>

	<p>semiautomatic firearms, they introduce new and equally troubling infringements on our rights, impose unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens, and reflect an overreach of government authority. I urge you to reject this amended legislation in its entirety and reconsider this misguided approach to public policy.</p> <p>The amendments do not resolve the fundamental constitutional flaws of SB25-003, they exacerbate them. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article II, Section 13 of the Colorado Constitution guarantee the right to keep and bear arms without undue interference. Requiring a government-mandated safety course, a background check beyond existing federal requirements, and a sheriff-issued "firearms safety course eligibility card" transforms this right into a privilege that must be earned through bureaucratic hoops. The U.S. Supreme Court's District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) decision protects firearms "in common use" for lawful purposes, precisely the semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and handguns targeted by this bill. Adding a discretionary approval process, where sheriffs can deny or revoke cards based on a vague "reasonable belief" of potential danger, further erodes due process and invites abuse, effectively creating a backdoor "may-issue" system that the courts have increasingly scrutinized.</p> <p>The practical burdens imposed by these amendments are significant and unjust. The requirement of a four-hour or 12-hour safety course, plus fingerprint-based background checks and a five-year renewal cycle places undue time and financial strain on Coloradans. For rural residents, accessing certified instructors may require hours of travel, while course fees and sheriff processing costs could total hundreds of dollars. These barriers disproportionately harm low-income individuals and those in remote areas who rely on firearms for hunting, predator control, or self-defense. Meanwhile, the five-year expiration of the eligibility card ensures this burden recurs indefinitely, turning a one-time right into a perpetual obligation.</p> <p>This amended bill bears a striking resemblance to the Illinois Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card system, which required residents to obtain a state-issued card before purchasing or possessing firearms—a process involving background checks, fees, and renewals every ten years. In <i>People v. Brown</i>, Judge T. Scott Webb ruled that Illinois FOID card system, including \$10 fee, application and photograph, imposed an impermissible burden on Mrs. Brown's Second Amendment right to self defense. This already sets the precedent for legal challenges to SB25-003 with how similar the programs are. SB25-003 began as a failed gun ban and has now morphed into a de facto license-to-purchase bill, with its training mandate, sheriff oversight, and five-year expiration, all without meaningful public input or comment. Rushed through after midnight following a 10-hour debate, this transformation sidestepped the overwhelming opposition voiced at the January 28, 2025, hearing, undermining the democratic process and mirroring the same flawed approach already rejected by the judiciary.</p> <p>Economically, the amendments still threaten Colorado's firearms industry. Retailers, ranges, and manufacturers will suffer as the added red tape deters buyers. Businesses</p>
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	<p>may relocate to neighboring states with fewer restrictions, costing jobs and tax revenue. Moreover, the bill's shaky legal footing—given its similarity to struck-down laws elsewhere—invites expensive lawsuits that taxpayers will ultimately fund.</p> <p>Additionally, the amendments fail to recognize the extensive training already undertaken by professionals who rely on firearms in their work. Law enforcement officers, members of the military, and firearms instructors undergo rigorous, in-depth training that far exceeds the basic 4-hour or 12-hour courses required by SB25-003. These individuals, many of whom use the very firearms this bill targets, should have their professional qualifications acknowledged and allowed to substitute for the mandated safety course to secure their exemption. Their training is not only more comprehensive but also tailored to real-world scenarios, easily satisfying and surpassing the bill's requirements. Forcing them to take a redundant public course would unnecessarily clog the system, exacerbate backlogs for training slots, and disrespect the expertise they bring to our communities.</p> <p>The current hunter safety and firearms training course systems in Colorado are already stretched thin, and SB25-003's amendments will only worsen this strain. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which oversees hunter education, frequently reports limited course availability, with many classes filling up quickly, especially in rural areas where instructors are scarce. Firearms training for concealed carry permits similarly faces high demand, with waitlists common at private ranges and training centers. By mandating that thousands of new and renewing gun owners complete a 4-hour or 12-hour course every five years, this bill will flood an already taxed system, creating a massive backlog. This bottleneck will delay eligibility cards, frustrate law-abiding citizens seeking to exercise their rights, and potentially overwhelm sheriffs' offices tasked with processing applications, all while doing little to address the bill's stated goals.</p> <p>I support the idea of additional firearms training. Education can benefit both gun owners and non-owners alike by fostering safe handling and responsible use. However, it must be done the right way, as a standalone bill, separate from restrictive measures like SB25-003, and crafted with broad input to ensure it enhances safety without infringing on rights. Most critically, any such training program should not become a financial barrier to exercising Second Amendment rights. Accessibility is paramount. Courses should be affordable, widely available, and voluntary, not a costly prerequisite that prices out low-income Coloradans or turns a constitutional guarantee into an elitist privilege.</p> <p>While I am asking you to vote "no" on this bill in its current form and revisit the topic of training in a stand alone bill, if you insist on supporting it, then I urge you to consider several amendments before giving it your approval:</p>
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	<p>First, add a carve-out to recognize the training of law enforcement officers, military members, and firearms instructors as sufficient to satisfy and substitute for the required firearms safety course, respecting their extensive professional qualifications.</p> <p>Second, extend the five-year renewal period to ten years, reducing the burden on citizens and alleviating strain on the already overburdened training system.</p> <p>Third, require Colorado Parks and Wildlife to offer a minimum number of free firearms classes and hunter safety courses that meet the training requirement, specifically targeting low-income individuals to ensure financial barriers do not prevent them from exercising their Second Amendment rights.</p> <p>These changes would mitigate some of the bill’s most egregious flaws, though they do not fully address its underlying issues.</p> <p>In conclusion, the current amendments to SB25-003 do not salvage an unconstitutional and flawed bill; they compound its problems by layering intrusive requirements onto an already objectionable framework. I respectfully urge you to vote "no" on this legislation in its final form and instead pursue solutions that enforce existing laws and respect the rights of law-abiding Coloradans.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust you will uphold the principles of freedom and fairness that define our state. I would also welcome the opportunity for further dialogue with you about this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jacob Thomas Highlands Ranch, CO JacobThomas7973@gmail.com 530-363-4198</p>
<p>Mark Karlin Against himself</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>This bill creates undue harassment of your law-abiding constituents and does little to nothing to the activities you are trying to prevent.</p> <p>Consider that your premise that this will prevent the loss of a life or lives is unsound. People determined enough to do something so horrendous will not be dissuaded by this inconvenience.</p>

	<p>The net effect of enacting symbolic and ineffectual legislation is that it causes upstanding citizens to question your ability to divine solutions to this and other complex issues. Please don't erode your effectiveness with haphazard and ill-conceived rule making.</p> <p>What is more, this legislation will certainly be overturned at some higher level and will be considered a time, effort and money boondoggle.</p> <p>Stand strong with sensible and responsible voters and defeat this bill!</p> <p>Regards, Mark Karlin</p>
<p>Michael Lening Against themselves</p>	<p>I believe this bill is unconstitutional and unfair to anyone who may not have the means to afford additional costs associated with the ability to purchase a semiautomatic gun. I do not see how this bill does anything to prevent criminals from committing crimes against innocent people but it very well could prevent innocent people from having the ability to defend themselves from such crimes. Please do not pass legislation that negatively impacts our ability to defend ourselves from those who will not follow the law if passed.</p> <p>Respectfully, Michael Lening</p>
<p>Raymond Michels Against themselves</p>	<p>Good morning</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 25-003. This bill is a patent violation of the 2nd amendment. It requires attendance in a course to get your name on a list in order to purchase a firearm that has been in common use for over 100 years in this country.</p> <p>To have to pay for training to get on a list to exercise a Constitutionally guaranteed right is the first step in restricting our rights as citizens of the United States. If this bill passes, will the next step be similar requirements to exercise our rights to free speech, to freedom of religion, or freedom of assembly.</p> <p>Please oppose SB25-003.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>

	<p>Raymond Michels 13176 Smokey Lilac Grv, Apt 103 Colorado Springs, CO 80921</p>
<p>Richard Whitmore Against themselves</p>	<p>NO on SB-003 There is nothing in this bill that will make Colorado any safer. This type of legislation hasn't work in any state that has been implemented. Illinois is a prime example. It puts an undue burden on law abiding Colorado citizens without making any one safer. Let's call this for what it is, backdoor gun control. No on SB-003</p>
<p>mark kaiser Against themselves</p>	<p>NO on SB25-003 I am sure all of you have seen the increase of seemingly innocent people getting shot for apparently blameless mistakes.We can whine and reason forever, talk does nothing. You don't stop criminals by attacking guns, you stop crime by stopping criminals. Criminals prefer unarmed victims, dictators prefer unarmed citizens. Emotional placebos like taking away guns from people who are not criminals might FEEL safe and might soothe tantrums, but it won't help law abiding citizens BE safe. If you are listening to law abiding citizens, many of them do not feel safe within their communities because of inadequate law enforcement staffing and response times to criminal acts. They are painfully aware of by the time police respond, the criminal has done the damage and there is no accountability . They see criminals being set free with no bail, the criminal does not show for court dates, but the criminals being literally set free to offend again and usually going on to committing even more serious crimes. Again, Criminals prefer unarmed victims, dictators prefer unarmed citizens. Citizens now feel that we are sinking into the morass where the only way to protect their property and loved ones is to invoke vigilante justice.</p>
<p>Richard Hus Against themselves</p>	<p>Colorado's Senate Bill 25-003 House Sponsors: I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, which aims to prohibit the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of specified semiautomatic firearms and classify rapid-fire devices as dangerous weapons. While I understand the intent behind this legislation is to enhance public safety, I believe that SB25-003 is not the right approach. This bill unfairly targets law-abiding citizens and responsible gun owners, while failing to address the root causes of gun violence. Instead of imposing blanket restrictions on semiautomatic firearms, you</p>

	<p>should focus on measures that effectively prevent firearms from being obtained by mentally ill people. Here are three arguments against the bill.</p> <p>1. Ineffective in Reducing Mass Shootings and General Homicide:</p> <p>Colorado's Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003) aims to ban the manufacture, sale, transfer, and purchase of certain semi-automatic firearms and rapid-fire devices. However, the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center's report on mass attacks in public spaces from 2016 to 2020 shows that such legislative measures might not achieve the desired effect. The report, titled "Mass Attacks in Public Spaces – 2016-2020," indicates that only 11% of the attackers used assault weapons, while most used handguns. This suggests that focusing on specific firearm types does not address the broader spectrum of weapons used in mass attacks. Moreover, data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program shows that assault rifles, which would be heavily restricted under this bill, are involved in a very small percentage of homicides. This indicates that the bill might not effectively reduce overall homicide rates.</p> <p>2. Violation of Constitutional Rights:</p> <p>SB25-003 is seen by many as an infringement on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. The bill's broad definition and application to common semi-automatic firearms, including those used for hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense, suggest it goes far beyond reasonable regulation into the realm of prohibition. Critics argue that this is not just an extension of magazine bans but a direct assault on the right to bear arms. You took an oath to uphold and protect Colorado's Constitution including Article II, Section 13, which provides the right of the people to bear arms for self-defense and in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned. Also, the text of the Second Amendment is clear: "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." By banning common firearms, the bill effectively criminalizes possession of legally owned firearms if they do not meet the new, stringent criteria, setting a dangerous precedent for further erosion of constitutional rights. You don't need to write any more laws... you need to enforce the current laws!</p> <p>3. Ignoring Root Causes - Mental Health:</p> <p>Death statistics in the U.S. show that firearms are involved in around 40,000 deaths annually, but this figure includes suicides, which constitute about 60% of these deaths. Here, the link between mental health and gun violence becomes critical. The Secret Service report underscores that many attackers exhibited behaviors indicative of mental health issues, yet SB25-003 does little to address this root cause. Instead of focusing on firearm restrictions, which do not address why individuals commit such acts, there should be a greater emphasis on mental health support and intervention strategies. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five</p>
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	<p>U.S. adults live with a mental illness, but only 43% of them receive treatment. Enhancing mental health services and reducing stigma could potentially mitigate the risk of mass violence more effectively than restrictive gun legislation. Do your job and focus on mental health issues, universal background checks, and extreme risk protection orders to reduce suicides and homicides.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>SB25-003 represents an overreach that fails to address the root causes of gun violence in a manner consistent with constitutional rights, public safety, and economic stability. Instead of focusing on banning types of firearms, lawmakers should consider comprehensive approaches that include mental health support, better enforcement of existing laws, and community-based prevention strategies. 36% of Coloradans own a firearm, so you will make many of your constituents unhappy if you push this flawed bill down their throats. I guarantee you will not be elected back to office! Focus your efforts on the mental health aspect of solving this sad issue instead of disarming law-abiding, innocent people!</p>
<p>Kelly Daniels Against themselves</p>	<p>For the same reasons since 2nd week of January, the legislative committees have the wrong focus. We now have 7 anti-sports equipment bills introduced so far this year but 25% as many bills introduced to 1) increase penalties for criminal use of sporting equipment as weapons. 2) new legislation that enforces more severe and determinant tools requiring Judicial departments to be more supportive of citizens and police. Work on good laws such as recently passed increasing definition of stolen sporting goods (some classify as weapons).</p> <p>The biggest objection is this bill in particular targets over 1 million law abiding Coloradans with increased costs with no effect on criminals.</p> <p>There are still 43+ more almost useless criminalization of law abiding Coloradans bills to introduce but no publicity of agenda to be more 1) severe on criminals using sporting goods as weapons 2) less catch and release of criminals by the judicial systems 3) increase diversion/rehabilitation of convicted criminals with meaningful opportunities after completion of their sentences.</p>
<p>Greg Dykstra Against themselves</p>	<p>I am a retired 30 year law enforcement officer from the City of Phoenix. I swore an OATH to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America. That includes the 2nd Amendment, which gives citizens of this country the RIGHT to KEEP and BEAR ARMS. This RIGHT was GUARENTEED by the 13 states before the Constitution was ratified by the states. It was meant to keep people free from a corrupt government wanting to control their lives. It ALSO protects citizens AGAINST CRIMINALS who want to hurt or kill them. SB25-003 is totally UNCONSTITUTIONAL and the authors of this bill know this, but do not care. I can tell many stories I have witnessed in my 30</p>

	<p>career, where a citizen defended themselves against a criminal who was intent on injuring or killing them. Law Enforcement Officers are almost never at the scene of a crime until it is over. I KNOW THIS!! This Bill is UNCONSTITUTIONAL and any Legislator who supports this has intentionally violated their OATH to the people of Colorado and the United States. It's time to HOLD THESE POLITICIANS ACCOUNTABLE AND VOTE THEM OUT AND DEFEAT THIS BILL!!</p>
<p>Erin DeCesaris For herself</p>	<p>My name is Erin DeCesaris and I'm a Colorado resident and mother of a son who attends school in Jeffco. I'm also a gun owner and advocate for gun violence prevention. I'm testifying today in favor of SB25-003. As Coloradans, we know all too well the impact mass shootings have on our communities.</p> <p>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, including the tragic 2021 shooting at Boulder King Soopers and the 2022 shooting at ClubQ in Colorado Springs. Sb25-003 would ensure that that individuals seeking to purchase semi-automatic military style weapons with detachable magazines receive a permit and safety training in order to do so.</p> <p>As a gun owner, I understand the burden of responsibility that comes with owning firearms. We must balance our 2nd Amendment right to bear arms with what is best for keeping our communities safe. While there are many other complex factors that contribute to mass shootings - mental health, inequities, indoctrination, and more - a major factor is relative ease of access to firearms, and this law is one step toward decreasing violence in our state.</p> <p>Please vote yes to pass this bill out of committee.</p>
<p>Dee Kaiser Against herself</p>	<p>SB25-003 would prevent women from purchasing a firearm. There has been a 77% increase in female gun ownership because the continuing rising crime rate puts women at the most risk of being robbed, raped, or assaulted. Colorado women have a Second Amendment right to defend themselves. Additionally, with the legislatures and Polis's reluctance to return this state to enforcing common sense laws plus welcoming a plethora of unvetted and undocumented illegal immigrants, self-protection for all is a necessity. Let's also not forget that police arriving within 3 to 7 minutes is not going to stop a determined and most often, repeat criminal who has only been encouraged to continue his criminal profession by not being held accountable for crimes committed.</p>

<p>Troy Steinbach Against himself</p>	<p>Honorable Committee Members,</p> <p>As a former law enforcement community member, I am testifying to voice my strong opposition to SB25-003, the Semiautomatic Firearms & 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. 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>Nowhere in the history of gun control measures has there been shown that they are successful in reducing crime; in fact, in cities with the strongest gun control laws, gun crime rises significantly. Punitive actions against the innocent only embolden those who are inclined to commit crimes. Crime falls when the guilty face real consequences.</p> <p>Honorable Committee Members, you are not ignorant, nor are you stupid. You know that the passing of this bill will only cost Colorado tax payers money in the legal rectification. you know that it violates constitutional law. Additionally, it further embarrasses our great state by putting a nonsensical piece of legislation into the national spotlight, where we already appear out of touch and uncaring about public safety. This only appears as a vainglorious attempt at appeasing a political party with signaling false virtue. You all would do well to be reminded that the 2nd amendment</p>
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	<p>was written by our founding fathers not to give it's citizens permission to own firearms, but rather to protect and guarantee the right to bear arms, protecting the people of this nation from ideologies like the ones from which this bill comes.</p> <p>In conclusion, SB25-003 is a clear violation of the Second Amendment and an overreach of government authority. It's only result will be the costly litigation on both sides with taxpayer funds. It hurts our small business and emboldens criminals. 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>Sincerely, - Troy Steinbach</p>
<p>Juan Poncho Against themselves</p>	<p>Subject: Oppose SB003 – A Threat to Constitutional Rights and Public Safety</p> <p>Dear committee,</p> <p>I have been a firearms owner for more years of my life than not. My father instilled in me the importance of firearms safety from a very young age, and I have passed that knowledge down to my two daughters, ensuring they are educated and responsible gun owners.</p> <p>From the introduction of SB003, which claims to extend the 2013 magazine ban, to its current amended form, it has become clear that the true intent behind this legislation is not to address public safety, but rather to further restrict law-abiding citizens' rights. By targeting semi-automatic firearms and requiring individuals to register them with the state—effectively paying to exercise a constitutionally protected right—this bill is a clear step toward increased gun control, and in my opinion, a move toward eventual firearms confiscation.</p> <p>This bill will do little to prevent criminals from committing violent acts. Instead, it will disproportionately impact Colorado's law-abiding citizens and could severely harm the state's firearms industry. The amendments to this bill seem to be crafted with the sole purpose of penalizing responsible gun owners while doing little to address the real threats we face in our communities.</p> <p>I urge all Colorado legislators to vote no on SB003. This bill is not only an infringement on our Second Amendment rights but is also a misguided and ineffective approach to addressing public safety.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Juan Poncho</p>
<p>Thomas Ware Against themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>My name is Thomas Ware, and I am writing to you today as a concerned Colorado citizen representing myself. I am a responsible gun owner, a retired law enforcement officer with decades of experience, and a steadfast ally to the LGBTQIA+ community.</p>

I am deeply troubled by the proposed Senate Bill 003 and implore you to vote against its passage.

SB-003 represents the most sweeping and draconian gun control measure ever introduced in the Colorado legislature. This bill is not a measured approach to public safety; it is a wholesale assault on the fundamental rights of law-abiding Coloradans to keep and bear arms, rights enshrined in both our state and federal constitutions. The broad prohibitions within this bill will not only fail to address the root causes of gun violence but will also have devastating consequences for our state's economy. Countless small businesses, particularly those in the firearms industry, will be forced to close their doors, resulting in significant job losses and economic hardship.

Furthermore, the bill's mandate requiring fixed magazines in semi-automatic firearms demonstrates a profound misunderstanding of firearm safety and functionality. As a retired law enforcement officer, I can attest that this provision will make firearms significantly less safe. Clearing a firearm with a fixed magazine, especially in high-stress situations, is inherently more complex and time-consuming, increasing the risk of accidental discharge and hindering effective self-defense. This is a critical safety issue that cannot be ignored.

As a white ally to the LGBTQIA+ community and people of color, I feel a moral obligation to voice my concerns about the disproportionate impact this bill will have on these vulnerable populations. In a climate of increasing hate crimes and societal unrest, the ability to defend oneself is paramount. SB-003 effectively strips these communities of their ability to protect themselves from both local threats and the potential overreach of an authoritarian government. History has repeatedly shown that marginalized groups are often the first targets of oppressive regimes, and denying them the means of self-defense is a grave injustice.

I want to be clear: I am not opposed to all forms of gun control. I believe in responsible gun ownership and support measures that address the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health support, enhanced background checks, and efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

However, SB-003 is not a solution. It is a misguided and overreaching attempt to legislate away a complex problem, one that will only serve to disarm law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to stop those intent on violence

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This bill undermines the very principles of personal safety and liberty that our state was built upon. I believe that thoughtful, balanced legislation is necessary to address gun violence, but this measure is fundamentally flawed and will do more harm than good. I respectfully ask that you vote against SB-003 and prioritize measures that genuinely enhance public safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding Coloradans.

Sincerely,

	<p>Thomas Ware</p>
<p>James McCoy Against themselves</p>	<p>To The House Judiciary Comity,</p> <p>I would like to convey my OPPOSITION to SB 25-003. This bill, for the most part, will violate the Second Amendment rights of Colorado residents by banning a myriad of common use firearms Coloradoans enjoy for sport, competition, hunting, and self-defense for arbitrary and capricious reasons.</p> <p>Also the language of the bill is ambiguous, gray, lacks good definition of "gas-operated" that can be misconstrued to try and include standard recoil operated firearms. The banning of semi-automatic firearms that use detachable magazines is also all encompassing of semi-autos in general. That's how they mechanically function. Magazines are made to be detachable for safety, maintenance, and to clear any malfunction that may occur. They can not be modified to be permanently affixed.</p> <p>This bill keeps morphing further and further from its original text, to stricter and stricter versions that seem to focus on outright banning of firearms and does not even point to how it will increase safety. It was also supposed to be a no cost item to the State Of Colorado. But the newest version has thrust more hoops, procedures, and fees for the law abiding citizen to negotiate, to be able to exercise thier Second Amendment Rights, and requiring the development of a firearm regulatory agency to administer to that. In this case you have chosen Colorado Parks And Wildlife (CPW).</p> <p>CPW has never been in this type of regulatory position before. Such positions have generally been tended to by Sheriffs, Police Departments, and CBI. Information is circulating on the costs for CPW to implement the tasks they will be burdened with. One of which is a registry and data base of persons buying firearms which seems to be prohibited by the State Constitution. Information suggests that choosing CPW was to avoid TABOR ramifications that traditional agencies have to consider.</p> <p>CPW already has fiscal shortfalls that it are reported, and that they will have to divert over one million dollars from The Wildlife Cash Fund to help get their firearm regulation division up and running. That diversion may severely impact trails, wildlife preservation, park projects, visitor safety, and reduce the overall CPW product the public enjoys.</p> <p>As well as CPW concerns, I am very concerned with the position of the Attorney General being able to change or adapt the bill as he sees fit after passage, and the powers it seems the AG will be granted to circumvent the powers of county sheriffs in this matter. The fact that the bill can be amended at the whim of the AG after passage without limitation is very suspect.</p> <p>While this bill will require Law Abiding citizens to adhere to its rules and regulations, we all know without one single doubt, criminals WILL NOT abide ! Criminals will always have access to illegal implements they want to procure for evil. This bill will do zero for the greater public safety, and probably increase dangers to good citizens by those bans and limitations, and requiring people to engage in costly, prohibitive, time consuming procedures to make a firearm purchase of the types the bill identifies.</p>

	<p>I foresee this backfiring badly. I see masses boycotting CPW in protest, by not purchasing passes, licenses, making donations, and diverting out of state outdoors recreationalists and hunters away from Colorado. That will also impact local economies. I know Western Hunter Magazine is watching this closely. I foresee a segment of the population move out of the state due to this.</p> <p>It is said "perception is reality". From my perspective, this bill does nothing to promote any active or true safety, and has morphed far and away from a " Bump stock and rapid fire trigger devices" to an all-out semi-auto firearms ban, and attack on the rights of law abiding Coloradoans. I implore you to NOT PASS SB25-003. This bill is bad for the citizens, state, CPW, and the Colorado fiscal deficit.</p> <p>James H. McCoy Pine, Colorado</p>
<p>Mitch Newton Against themselves</p>	<p>Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my vehement opposition to Senate Bill 25-003. As a fourth generation Coloradan, I am concerned that this bill is a blatant, illogical, and unlawful violation of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that restricts and criminalizes lawful gun ownership and use by law abiding Colorado citizens.</p> <p>The amended bill that the House will consider is tantamount to the government requiring citizens to petition the government for access to their constitutional rights, submit to unnecessary training and redundant background checks, and pay the state a fee in order to access those constitutional rights. To draw a parallel, it would be just as egregious for Colorado legislators to require its citizens to complete a background check, attend training, pass a test, and pay the government a fee in order to vote or practice the religion of their choice.</p> <p>I am hoping that you recognize that this bill is unconstitutional and irresponsible governance. It does nothing for public safety while unnecessarily restricting lawful gun ownership.</p> <p>SB 25-003 broadly criminalizes nearly every semi-automatic rifle and carbine, and even some shotguns and pistols. Many of these firearms have existed for well over a half century and are in common use today for hunting, sporting, and self-defense purposes.</p> <p>Outlawing firearms in common use for these purposes is neither responsible nor common sense public policy. Furthermore, creating redundant and unconstitutional requirements for ownership of these firearms will severely infringe upon law abiding citizens' inherent right of self-defense, while empowering criminals (who willfully</p>

	<p>break the many gun laws we already have) to commit violence against increasingly defenseless citizens of Colorado.</p> <p>Considering the amount of violent gang-related crimes afflicting Arapahoe County and neighboring counties, I submit that the General Assembly would best represent Coloradans by addressing the growing perpetration of violent crime and empowering law enforcement across the state to better enforce the laws we already have. Pushing to strip law abiding citizens of their ability to own firearms for sporting purposes and to defend themselves and their households from violent crime is not in the best interest of Colorado and is flatly unconstitutional.</p> <p>I express my strongest opposition to SB 25-003 and I implore you to vote against this legislation.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mitch Newton</p>
<p>Clinton Beadles Against himself</p>	<p>Governor Polis, Senators, and representatives,</p> <p>Hello, my name is Clinton Austin Beadles, I was born and raised in Colorado Springs and currently reside in Lakewood CO. I am writing you today in the wake of last night's decision to amend bill SB 25 003. This was my written testimony I sent in after sitting in the Old Library for over 5 hours. My name was not called until 10:30pm to testify.</p> <p>"Let me start by saying I used to vote democrat and used to be a registered democrat. I was a moderate democrat. Or a "hippie" republican if you will. I have been registered independent for almost 10 years now. I didn't leave the Democratic Party, the Democratic Party left me.</p> <p>This new firearms ban is going too far. Much like many of the decisions and ideas from the democrats over the last 8 years. You're over reaching. You're going too far. I have lived in Colorado my entire 36 years. I have been a responsible firearm owner for over 15 years. I've been a firearms enthusiast for over 20 years. The way this state is heading is disappointing. Colorado is becoming a great place to be from. You are pushing sensible democrats out of your political party. You are pushing sensible life long citizens to leave Colorado.</p> <p>I understand you want to make Colorado safer. This ban will not make Colorado safer. This will do quite the opposite. This ban will embolden criminals. This ban signals to criminals that Colorado citizens are not armed, or are lesser armed than</p>

	<p>them. You are essentially taking us back hundreds of years. It seems you will not stop until all guns are banned unless it's a single shot musket.</p> <p>This ban will hurt small business. Firearm stores and dealers, gunsmiths, and sport shooting ranges. This ban will shut down small business in Colorado. This ban will make people unemployed. Further hurting our already failing state economy. This gun ban hurts law abiding citizens and will not prevent any mass shooting or criminal actions.</p> <p>This ban is unconstitutional. The 2nd amendment shall not be infringed. Your citizens are the militia. I am the militia. In my own home and community. This ban is stepping deeper into government tyranny. My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones to gun violence. But banning guns and the rights of other citizens to protect themselves is not the answer you're looking for."</p> <p>Thank you for reading my plea and your time. I hope you will reconsider this bill. As it stands this is not a good decision for Colorado lawmakers to vote on.</p> <p>Thanks -Austin</p>
<p>Robert Bergstrom Against St. Vrain Manufacturing, Inc.</p>	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to oppose SB25-003. While I'm sure you have received 1000s of emails making the case that in light of Bruen and Heller decisions this is clearly a violation of the 2nd, and I agree; however, I also think this is a clear violation of the "Takings" clause of the 5th amendment.</p> <p>I own a small manufacturing company, and part of our strategic plan for 2025 was to apply for a class 7 FFL and SOT to machine parts for modern sporting rifles. Over the last few years we have invested over a million dollars to position the company to take this step. If this bill passes, I would have no option but to pursue financial justice via court action. If all FFLs in the state joined forces in a class action, the potential liability to the state would be staggering.</p> <p>Given the almost \$1 Billion dollar budget shortfall, this seems to be incredibly poor stewardship of taxpayers funds. Again I urge a no vote. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.</p> <p>Regards, Bob Bergstrom President</p>

	<p>St. Vrain Manufacturing, Inc. 303-702-1529 Ext 103</p>
<p>Michael Flanigan Against themselves</p>	<p>Shall not be infringed...</p>
<p>Doug Bay Against themselves</p>	<p>As an independent, I find SB25-003 along with the other gun bills moving through CO government very concerning and something I strongly do not support as they infringe on our 2nd amendment right. It would appear that Colorado has chosen to infringe on our second amendment right, instead of working on true issues facing our state like crime theft, cost of living, drug abuse and other issues. This bill which places undue burden on our second amendment rights, reads like it is written by people without any real firearm expertise or personal defense training. I also believe if passed the SCOTUS will find it unconstitutional years down the road as our right to bear arms shall not be infringed and a state should not be allowed to compel individual to have to pay for a right. Hence leading to even more waste of taxpayer money which could be used in better ways. To me this is just a distraction looking for a problem instead of working on the actual challenges facing our great state.</p>
<p>Sarah Puhr For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 25-003, a crucial step in enforcing and strengthening Colorado’s existing high-capacity magazine ban. As gun violence continues to devastate our communities, we must take meaningful action to close the dangerous gaps in our firearm laws and prevent further tragedies.</p> <p>Colorado took an important step in 2013 by banning high-capacity magazines capable of holding more than 15 rounds. However, the law remains incomplete as long as military-style firearms that accept these magazines remain legal for purchase. Additionally, high-capacity magazines can still be easily acquired from neighboring states, making it alarmingly simple for dangerous individuals to circumvent the law and obtain these deadly accessories.</p> <p>Time and again, we have witnessed the catastrophic consequences of these loopholes. The Aurora theater shooting left 12 dead and 70 wounded. The Club Q attack claimed five lives and injured 19 others. The Boulder King Soopers shooter legally purchased a firearm and then paired it with multiple high-capacity magazines, despite Colorado’s ban. These cases make one thing abundantly clear: as long as military-style firearms capable of accepting detachable magazines remain accessible, mass shooters will continue to exploit this deadly gap in our laws.</p>

	<p>High-capacity magazines serve no legitimate civilian purpose. They are designed to maximize carnage by allowing shooters to fire dozens of rounds in rapid succession without stopping to reload. Those precious moments of reloading can mean the difference between life and death—giving victims a chance to escape and law enforcement a chance to intervene. By prohibiting the sale, purchase, and manufacture of military-style firearms that accept detachable magazines, SB 25-003 would close this loophole and make it harder for dangerous individuals to carry out mass shootings.</p> <p>Colorado has a duty to protect its citizens by ensuring that laws intended to reduce gun violence are fully enforced and effective. We cannot allow easily avoidable tragedies to continue due to legislative inaction. By passing SB 25-003, we can take a critical step in preventing mass shootings and saving lives.</p> <p>I urge you to support this common-sense legislation to make Colorado a safer place for all.</p> <p>Sincerely, Sarah Puhr 80026 7206356513</p>
<p>Ronald Hunt Against themself</p>	<p>I urge you to vote no against this bill. Not only will it greatly impact local businesses, but it will do nothing to curb crime. Over the last fifteen years we've had more and more regulations regarding firearms. Over that same time, Colorado has gotten more and more dangerous. It's almost as though criminals, by their very nature, do not follow laws. This bill will only hurt law abiding citizens and do nothing to stop violent crime. If anything it may make it worse.</p>
<p>Mario Acevedo Against themself</p>	<p>Dear Representative,</p> <p>Please vote no on SB25-003. This bill started as an attempt to close the "high-capacity" magazine loophole and has since morphed to a clumsy, complicated, and expensive piece of legislation that will do nothing to safeguard lives or improve public safety. The original fiscal note for this bill was zero dollars. After the first round of amendments, the fiscal note ballooned to \$2.475 million. With this current version, the fiscal note has grown to an outrageous \$4.875 million. The bill seeks to get around TABOR limits by using a questionable funding process that diverts monies collected for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and mandated for wildlife management, park trails, park management, and habitat protection.</p> <p>A financial analysis of this bill's confusing funding process shows that after all the revenues are collected, the state will have to return over \$1.2 million to taxpayers as a TABOR refund, putting the budget in an even deeper financial hole. The fiscal</p>

	<p>note’s assumptions about the bill’s cost are overly optimistic. The state of Washington has introduced a less comprehensive permitting scheme and they are appropriating over \$11 million a year for the next five years. Last year, the Illinois legislature appropriated over \$32 million to get their permitting system in compliance with state law. Trying to fund this bill on the cheap will only get the state treasury in a bigger bind beyond the TABOR restraints mentioned above.</p> <p>The bill expects that SB25-003 will be in effect by September 1, 2025, giving the Colorado Parks and Wildlife only six months, not enough time to put this new and complex permitting system in place. Consider that the state of Washington is giving itself until November 1, 2026 to implement their scheme.</p> <p>Considering that the state has a \$1.2 billion deficit, the legislature should be laser-focused on funding schools, affordable housing, justice equity, and mental health and harm-prevention services, and instead you’re devoting time and monies on a bill that will worsen the state’s budget woes while not preventing one violent crime.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mario Acevedo</p> <p>Denver, CO</p>
<p>Amanda Ranard For themselves</p>	<p>I'm a resident of Longmont and a mother of two children. I'm writing to strongly support SB25-003.</p> <p>Preventing gun violence is of the utmost importance to me so that my daughters can grow up in a safe city and state. I strongly support SB25-003 to enforce Colorado's existing high-capacity magazine ban. Strengthening the existing law will help prevent future mass shootings, as the weapons prohibited by this bill are too often used in tragic examples like the Boulder King Soopers and Club Q shootings.</p> <p>Strengthening the high-capacity magazine ban will also allow my children, and all children in Colorado, to more safely visit public spaces like parks, their schools, and grocery stores. Firearms are currently the leading cause of death for children and teens in the U.S., and we must do everything we can to reduce these devastating statistics.</p>
<p>Malik Carrethers Against themselves</p>	<p>Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you today to oppose Senate Bill 25-003—an unconstitutional and dangerous assault on our fundamental rights. This bill is not about public safety; it is about control. It seeks to ban commonly owned semiautomatic firearms and classify rapid-fire devices as dangerous weapons, turning law-abiding gun owners into criminals overnight.</p>

	<p>Let's be clear: this bill directly violates the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Colorado Constitution, both of which explicitly protect our right to bear arms. The Supreme Court has affirmed that Americans have the right to own firearms in common use for self-defense, sport, and hunting. SB 25-003 disregards that precedent and punishes responsible citizens rather than addressing the real issue—criminals who have never followed gun laws in the first place.</p> <p>This legislation will not make our communities safer. It will only leave law-abiding citizens defenseless while criminals continue to obtain weapons illegally. It imposes excessive penalties, revokes dealer permits for minor infractions, and creates unnecessary restrictions on firearm purchases. Meanwhile, violent offenders walk free due to lenient prosecution and weak enforcement of existing laws.</p> <p>If lawmakers truly cared about reducing crime, they would focus on enforcing the laws we already have and addressing mental health issues. Instead, they choose to push unconstitutional bans that strip away the rights of honest, hardworking Americans.</p> <p>I urge every one of you to stand up against this infringement on our freedoms. Contact your representatives. Make your voices heard. Do not let them take away your rights under the false promise of safety. Because when you give up freedom for security, you end up with neither. Thank you.</p>
<p>Roberto Bernal Against himself</p>	<p>This is unconstitutional, it should not be up to the Parks and Wildlife to decide if I can own a gun. There have been too many attacks on the 2nd Amendment, and it is making our state less safe. This bill would only be a huge cost on our state. We will have to expand the Dept of P&W (probably taking from Tabor). Limit the rights of our own citizens. We should not be subject to the Dept of P&W's discernment of weather or not any private citizen can own or purchase a fire arm. That in it self is unconstitutional. It can used to then ask to justify such a purchase or ownership, and as a private citizen I am not, nor should any citizen be subject to any explanation or justification. Please do not vote for this bill. If so, then expect a Red Wave to come this next election period!</p>

<p>Kristine Peterson</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>SB 25-003 is an egregious attack on the Constitutional rights of every citizen of Colorado. This is an unconstitutional gun, money and rights grab of gigantic proportions destined to be overturned by the Supreme Court. One would hope that the Colorado legislative body would have better time and resource management skills, focusing on fixing the fiscal morass they created instead of attacking the foundational documents and precepts of this nation. Yet here we are, debating the abrogation of the constitutional and civil rights of every Colorado citizen. The constitution is clear – the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.</p> <p>Since when is the Division of Wildlife in charge of gun control? They are in the red already. Attempting to add unconstitutional gun management to their tasks will be a failure. The cartels and mass shooters are not going to apply for permission to purchase a gun nor take a class. Hunters will refuse to come to Colorado because of the gun laws here; the Division of Wildlife will sink into further debt and disarray. The tourist industry will suffer the same result. This state is already in a \$1.2 billion shortfall.</p> <p>Passage of this bill will foment a 90% vote for secession by the counties. When the gun owners of Colorado leave the state that will create in excess of another one billion dollar shortfall. Citizens are already leaving; I know many who have left. My brother-in-law reported last week that at his shooting range in Arkansas they have a bunch of new members, all of them new residents that left Colorado. Using parks and wildlife funds, gifts, grants and license fees to abuse the citizen’s it especially underhanded and vile.</p> <p>History has repeatedly shown that registration leads to confiscation, abuse, brutality and then mass murder of citizens by their own government, initially focused upon religious and ethnic minorities. Dictators throughout history initially disarm the population as a prelude to totalitarianism. The choice is stark and you will be made known by your votes. Will you vote for liberty or authoritarianism?</p>
<p>Kevin Wachter</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>As a licensed Colorado Realtor, I travel throughout the state, meeting clients, showing and entering properties that are often unoccupied. We’ve found non-owners and non-tenants in these properties and disturb them as they’ve squatted in those vacant properties. Whether at night or during the day, we are at risk—with our clients accompanying us—when disturbing squatters that, in some cases require the protection of an automatic firearm with a detachable magazine. Also, I enjoy the sport of target shooting and professional sport shooting. Not only do I believe this bill violates my Second Amendment rights, there is no evidence that I’m aware of that this bill will reduce the use of the targeted firearms by criminals and lunatics, which is where most of the injuries and killing by firearms occurs. How about applying our efforts in government, law and law enforcement to apprehending, convicting and appropriately sentencing those who acquire and use this equipment for illegal and violent purposes. It is not controlling the sale of the device that is the solution. Let’s apply the resources of our state to being more efficacious fighting the crimes and stopping the criminal use of any kind of deadly devices. Thank you.</p>

<p>Kristen Molsness</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to ask for your support in SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices. I am a mom in Lakewood, CO and I am concerned about gun violence in our community. My son's well being is my number one priority as a mom, and passing this bill into law is one thing we can do to keep the people in Colorado safer.</p> <p>Statistics from Everytown:</p> <p>-Communities across Colorado continue to be devastated by gun violence. Nearly 1,000 people die and nearly 1,400 are wounded by guns annually in Colorado. Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Colorado, and an average of 84 children and teens die by guns every year.</p> <p>-We've seen exactly how deadly it is when a shooter has access to a high-capacity magazine: 12 dead and 70 wounded in Aurora, 5 dead and 26 wounded at Club Q, the list goes on. In order to prevent future tragedies and save lives, we need to close this dangerous loophole, and ban high-powered, military style firearms that accept detachable high-capacity magazines. No one should be able to take a legal firearm and dramatically increase its lethality with an easily-obtainable device already prohibited under state law.</p> <p>I appreciate your time on this bill and encourage you to support its passage to improve the safety of Coloradans.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kristen Molsness</p>
<p>Justin Fahnestock</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I am opposed to SB25-003. This only effectively makes it difficult for law abiding citizens to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights, and practically does nothing to stem crime and mass casualty events. I do applaud the consideration of our lawmakers efforts to protect society, but this bill does none of that. Our efforts need to be focused on mental health resources, defending our schools, supporting our law enforcement, deporting gang affiliated immigrants. Please prevent un-American legislation such as SB25-003 from passing and endangering law abiding citizens from the exercise of their rights. Thank you.</p>
<p>Rigoberto Neira</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to implore you to vote NO on SB25-003. I hope you will read the information and thoughts contained below.</p> <p>The primary sponsor and his co-sponsors presented this as a simple "common sense" law to protect the public and to enforce the previous magazine capacity law passed</p>

	<p>in 2013. The initial premise that a new law is needed to enforce an existing law from twelve years ago is, with all due respect, ridiculous 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 and Illinois style registration system, as the drafters and sponsor of the bill are most assuredly aware that it would completely restrict future purchase or sales of all the same firearms they have wanted to ban outright in previous years. Such a ban or restriction has resoundingly been opposed by the people of Colorado in all the previous years which certain legislators have attempted to pass such bills. To tout this newest bill as anything else than a reworking or a new angle on an "assault weapon bill" is disingenuous and misleading. The significant issues with this bill caused the Majority whip of the sponsors' own party to write a letter speaking out against it and for two of the co-sponsors to withdraw their names from the bill and vote against it after weeks of delays. Now the Senate has punted this toxic bill on to the House, to do what they did not have the fortitude to do themselves, and vote against this piece of irresponsible legislation.</p> <p>The sponsor's midnight hour addition of a permit system and the addition of exempted firearms clearly indicates that the drafters did some late cut and paste from the 1994 assault weapon ban and the Illinois "FOID" permit system in a feeble attempt at concession. The fact that they did so at all illustrates how poorly received this will be.</p> <p>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. The vast majority of the firearms this bill seeks to restrict 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 the Supreme Court's Bruen decision 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. There is no such tradition in the State of Colorado. To the contrary, the State Constitution says in Section 13 "Right to bear arms. The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question..." At its' heart, SB 25-003 is simply a bill meant to restrict citizens constitutional rights and ban future access to legal arms.</p> <p>The sponsors' "concession" to have a permit system is a direct affront to the citizens of the State and a feeble attempt to add more bad ingredients to an already flawed piece of legislation. It is, and will be, found to be unconstitutional under the parameters of the Bruen decision with the Supreme Court. The primary Senate sponsor has said on the floor that his lawyers have the final say and all the knowledge needed on the matter as to it's standing, but he may wish to find some new ones who are more up to date on current legal matters. On February 10th of this year the 2nd Circuit Court of Illinois ruled in Illinois v Brown that the FOID system of their own state was unconstitutional based on the findings of the US Supreme Court in Heller and Bruen.</p> <p>At the end of this I have included a list of the sponsors' exempted firearms and a brief description of each. It is laughable that the exempted firearms are either are</p>
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	<p>expensive high end luxury hunting rifles, or are outdated relics which would be already exempt as antiques (but were previously military arms), or are actual military arms which either recently saw service as arms of war or are currently being used for that purpose. Lastly, two models, the Mini-14 and the Mini-30, are simply “sporterized” rifles which have all the function, strength and the same calibers of the “dreaded” AR rifle, and are civilian versions of current military arms. These were also exempted under the 1994 federal assault weapons ban. Interestingly, there is an AK-47 rifle variant included in the exempted list as well. This all demonstrates the lack of knowledge by the drafters and sponsors about firearms and shows their full intent, which to their credit they have not been shy about, which is to restrict firearm access and possession by ALL lawful citizens of Colorado.</p> <p>I end 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.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rigoberto Neira District 50</p> <p>List of Sponsor ADDED exempted firearms – pay special attention to those in BOLD titles. Red items were already exempt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG4216L JUNGMAN; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Swedish WW2 military rifle – technically already exempt under Curio & Relic designation • BENELLI ARGO E PRO; \$2000 rifle, Luxury Rifle • BENELLI R1 BIG-GAME RIFLE ; \$1500 rifle, Luxury Rifle, “Benelli’s innovative R1 big-game rifle is built around the patented, battle-tested Auto-Regulating Gas-Operated (A.R.G.O.) piston-driven system used in our M4 tactical shotguns. This is the system selected by the U.S. Marine Corps for its relentless reliability, and it reduces felt recoil in our R1 rifles by nearly 50% compared to bolt-action rifles in the same calibers. Combined with our ComforTech® recoil-reduction system (available in synthetic stock models only), the A.R.G.O. system helps tame the “flinch factor” when shooting large-caliber rifle rounds. An included shim kit lets you customize the fit of the R1. The drilled and tapped receiver comes with a Picatinny rail ready to receive the optics of your choice. Already easy to clean and maintain, the R1’s removable trigger group makes it even more so. The included removable magazine has a capacity of three or four rounds, depending on caliber. Available in .30-06, .308, .300 Win. Mag and .338 Win. Mag.” • BROWNING BAR MK 3; \$1200 - 1500 rifle, Luxury Rifle • BROWNING BAR LONGT RAC RIFLE ; Luxury Rifle • BROWNING BAR SHORT T RAC RIFLE ; Luxury Rifle
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FABRIQUE NATIONALE MODEL 49, COMMONLY KNOWN AS FN49; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o former Military battle rifle for 12 countries, technically already exempt under Curio & Relic designation • FUSIL AUTOMATIQUE MODELE 1917, ALSO KNOWN AS RSC M1917; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o French WW1 battle rifle, technically already exempt under Curio & Relic designation • GEWEHR 43; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nazi battle rifle, technically already exempt under Curio & Relic exemption • GLOBCO MOHAWK; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1950's rifle developed from Russian SVT-40 WW2 battle rifle, technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • HAKIM RIFLE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Swedish and Egyptian WW2 battle rifle, technical already exempt under Curio & Relic designation • HK SL6; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Obsolete semi automatic rifle in identical caliber as standard AR-15 rifle • HK SL7; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Obsolete semi automatic rifle in identical caliber as standard AR-10 rifle • M1 CARBINE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o U.S. military service rifle in current use by 2 countries and formerly by 61, countries; technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation for older rifles, new production available • M1941 JOHNSON RIFLE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Military Service rifle for U.S and 6 other countries, technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • MARLIN CAMP CARBINE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9mm and 45 cal compact rifle • MAS49; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o French battle rifle used by 23 countries • REMINGTON MODEL 4; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Does not exist as written, correct name is Remington Model Four • REMINGTON MODEL 8; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o "The Model 8 was used as a police gun, modified to use detachable extended capacity magazines, among other changes. " ; technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • REMINGTON MODEL 740; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REMINGTON MODEL 742; • REMINGTON MODEL 750; • REMINGTON 7400; • RUGER DEERFIELD CARBINE ; • RUGER MINI-14 RANCH RIFLE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Civilian version of U.S. M14 battle rifle, Currently used by USA and 8 other countries in military and/or police service, formerly used by 3 other countries as military rifles, Chambered in the same caliber as standard AR-15 rifles o Still in current production for sale to the general public, some already exempt under Curio & Relic designation • RUGER MINI THIRTY RIFLE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Civilian version of U.S. M14 battle rifle, Currently used by USA and 8 other countries in military and/or police service, formerly used by 3 other countries as military rifles, Chambered in the same caliber as standard AR-10 rifles o Still in current production for sale to the general public, some already exempt under Curio & Relic designation • RUGER MODEL 44; • SPRINGFIELD ARMORY M1A STANDARD ISSUE RIFLE ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Civilian version of U.S. M14 battle rifle • SVT 40; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Russian designed battle rifle used by 17 countries, in current service. • VALMET HUNTER M88; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hunting rifle based on Kalashnikov AK-47 design • VZ.52; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Czech WW2 battle rifle previously used by 20 countries; technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • WINCHESTER MODEL 100; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Gun which was recalled for defect which could seriously injure or kill the user; technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • WINCHESTER MODEL 1905; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rifle not made since 1920; technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • WINCHESTER MODEL 1907; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rifle used as service rifle in WW1 by several countries, Also used by law enforcement and utilized by criminal gangs due to ease of conversion to fully automatic fire (Dillinger Gang) in the early 20th century. technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation • WINCHESTER MODEL 1910;
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	<p>o Rifle used as service rifle in WW1 by Russia and France, technically exempt under Curio & Relic designation</p>
<p>Justin Hill Against himself</p>	<p>Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>This bill will not reduce violent crime. This bill only makes it more difficult and expensive for those who follow the law. Those criminals who do not follow the law will continue to obtain semi-automatic firearms. In fact, it can reasonably be argued that by restricting the legal means of procurement, you will be increasing the black-market demand and therefore inviting more crime and illegal firearms to the state.</p> <p>Mass shootings have unfortunately happened in this state. They have also happened in other states. You can acknowledge this while also acknowledging that far more people are injured or killed due to basic gang violence. If the objective is to stem gun violence, creating an opportunity for illicit firearms trade right here in our backyard is not the way to do it. Therefore, the only logical conclusion that can be drawn is that this is about control. It is clear to the informed that national organizations like Everytown are writing these bills and funding their passage, preying on states who have shown willful disregard for the rights and freedoms of their citizens.</p> <p>This state is already having budget issues due to ever increasing overregulation of daily life, yet you want to further increase spending to trample constitutionally protected rights and then spend more inevitably defending this unconstitutional legislation in court.</p> <p>It is quite sad that the Colorado legislative body has allowed itself to become mere pawns in the gun control agenda pushed by forces and money from outside of Colorado.</p> <p>Justin Hill Aurora, CO</p>
<p>Jeremy Allison Against himself</p>	<p>As a police officer in a major Denver metropolitan area city, and a lifelong Colorado resident - I think it's important the committee considers some of the major problems with this bill. I have an extensive background in firearms from my time in law enforcement and as a civilian. I will explain some of the issues with this bill as plainly as possible.</p> <p>This bill is dangerous and impractical for the following reasons: Banning detachable magazines on semi-auto firearms decreases safety.</p>

	<p>When a firearm does not have the feature of a detachable magazine, malfunctions cannot be cleared as safely. Malfunctions of a firearm during its use are commonly fixed by removing the magazine to safely correct the problem. When there is no option to remove the magazine, it is possible the slide or bolt cannot be manipulated to clear the cartridge from the chamber.</p> <p>Having seen/investigated accidents involving firearms, I can tell you with certainty this bill would only increase firearm related accidents. I have also seen first hand violent crime increase over the last several years despite multiple gun control bills being made law.</p> <p>I just don't see how this bill would reduce gun violence. I think focusing on mental health would be far more beneficial. It is common to see people meeting criteria for mental health holds who are detained by law enforcement for an evaluation released only hours later with little to no help. These people typically have suicidal or homicidal ideations. Hospitals don't have the resources or expertise to deal with these people. I've seen people released who commit crimes of violence or suicide shortly after their release. It is sad and extremely frustrating to see the system fail these people in crisis when you do everything in your power to help them. I share these frustrations with Senator Dafna Michaelson Jenet on mental health and people in crisis even though I disagree with her on most issues.</p> <p>The burden on CPW both financially and with the manpower required for training, makes this law impractical. Diverting funds from CPW's primary function of wildlife management and conservation is a huge mistake.</p> <p>These are only a few issues I have with this bill aside from constitutional issues but I wanted to stop here in the interest of brevity.</p> <p>I implore you to please consider the severe safety and practical implications of this bill and vote against it. Thank you for your time reading my concerns and considering these issues.</p>
<p>Jordan Smith Against themselves</p>	<p>The government's authority comes from the consent of the people and is instituted by God. The government's role is easy: to reward those who do good and to be a terror to those who have bad conduct. SB25-003 is a direct rejection of God's defined role for government. The bill will punish and terrorize law-abiding citizens, forcing them to go through a burdensome and expensive permitting system in order to own the tools necessary to protect themselves from wicked people. Criminals, on the other hand, will not follow this law and will continue to illegally purchase weapons and use them to terrorize innocent citizens. I urge the members of the committee to obey God's command for rulers: reward those who are good citizens by voting against SB25-003 and preserve your constituents' rights to protect themselves. Do not oppress the poor with this expensive permitting scheme. Know that all rulers will face judgement for the manner in which they rule. Will you uphold God's role for government and vote No on this bill? Or will you be a terror to law</p>

	<p>abiding citizens and vote Yes? Please vote No on SB25-003 and uphold your obligation to rule before God and before the citizens of Colorado.</p>
<p>Norah Krause For Students Demand Action</p>	<p>Hello my name is Norah Krause, I am a junior at Denver East High School and testifying on behalf of Students Demand Action. I hope you guys might recognize me at least a little bit because this is around my ninth time testifying, quite frankly I've lost count, and definitely not my first time at the capital. I have spent way too much time here lobbying, rallying, and pleading for my representatives to pass bills that will help save lives.</p> <p>In fact, I will see all of you on Thursday for a Students Demand Action advocacy day. As the class of 2026 at East High School, my freshman year was inundated by multiple gun violence incidents. I witnessed first hand the substantial impact gun violence has on communities, on your community and on my community.</p> <p>I write today to urge you to pass SB25-003. This bill is crucial in order to prevent more incidents of gun violence within our state. I am proud to be a Coloradan, to live in a state which is a leader in gun violence prevention, but there is more we can do and this bill is a critical factor of that. In order to fully implement and enforce Colorado's existing high-capacity magazine prohibition and to address the profit driven motives of the</p> <p>gun industry, Colorado needs to ban the purchase and manufacture of high-powered firearms that accept detachable magazines unless people undergo training and get a permit. This bill would strike at the core of America's mass shooting problem: weapons of war that allow shooters to unleash rapid-fire barrages on victims using high-capacity magazines that are quick to reload. And this law would be simple to enforce. The</p> <p>sale, manufacture, or transfer of a semi-automatic firearm would be prohibited unless a purchaser has a permit if the firearm accepts a high-capacity magazine, and there'd be no permit required if the gun does not. This bill addresses a uniquely Colorado issue. Colorado issues; the 2021 Boulder shooting at King Soopers, where the shooter purchased a semiautomatic pistol which he then paired with multiple high-capacity magazines. In</p> <p>the 2022 Colorado Springs ClubQ 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. Nine of Ten of the deadliest shootings in America were all done with high capacity magazines. Make the connection; this bill helps enforce the pre- existing law. And maybe, if this bill had been in place, those shootings would not have happened.</p> <p>So again, I urge you to pass this bill. Because quite frankly, I have tests to be studying for right now. And classes to attend. I should not have to be here today, what has happened in Colorado should not have happened or continue to happen. Please keep that in mind when deciding.</p>

<p>Lawrence Herzlich</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>While I commend your efforts to reduce gun violence, I believe the proposed legislation misses the mark. Creating excessively complicated requirements for lawful firearm purchases will not achieve the desired outcome.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider and return this bill to Congress for further work. Please collaborate with your colleagues to develop a practical solution that addresses gun violence without infringing upon the rights of responsible gun owners.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Larry Herzlich</p>
<p>Matthew George</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>I strongly oppose Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 because it strips law-abiding citizens of their fundamental right to self-defense, infringing upon their unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This bill endangers families by disarming those who would otherwise be capable of defending themselves against violent criminals.</p> <p>The Right to Self-Defense is Fundamental: The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to bear arms, which is essential for personal protection. The ability to defend oneself and one's family is not a privilege granted by the government; it is a natural right that precedes any legislation. Senate Bill 25-003 undermines this principle by restricting access to firearms, leaving innocent people vulnerable to criminals who do not follow the law.</p> <p>Firearms Prevent Crime and Save Lives: Data overwhelmingly shows that firearms are used far more often to prevent crimes than to commit them. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analyzed defensive gun use (DGU) and found that firearms are used defensively between 500,000 and 3 million times per year in the U.S. The vast majority of these incidents end without a shot being fired because the presence of a firearm deters the aggressor.</p> <p>Additionally, a comprehensive study from the National Research Council confirmed that firearm ownership correlates with a reduction in violent crime. Criminals are less likely to target homes and individuals who may be armed, demonstrating that an armed populace is a deterrent to crime.</p> <p>According to the Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), victims who use a firearm in self-defense are significantly less likely to be injured than those who use other means of resistance. The study found that armed</p>

	<p>victims were successful in stopping attacks over 90% of the time without even having to discharge their weapon.</p> <p>Disarming Law-Abiding Citizens Empowers Criminals: Laws that restrict gun ownership do nothing to stop criminals, who by definition do not obey laws. Instead, these laws only disarm responsible, law-abiding citizens who are left defenseless. Evidence from cities with strict gun control laws, such as Chicago and Washington, D.C., shows that such measures do not decrease crime rates but instead increase violent crime by emboldening criminals who know their victims are unarmed.</p> <p>SB 25-003 is a Direct Violation of Unalienable Rights: By preventing individuals from effectively defending themselves and their loved ones, this bill directly violates our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as outlined in the Declaration of Independence. The right to life inherently includes the right to self-defense, and any law that strips individuals of the ability to protect themselves is an affront to basic human rights.</p> <p>I urge you to reject Senate Bill 25-003. Colorado Senate Bill 25-003 is a reckless and dangerous overreach that punishes law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to stop violent criminals. The facts are clear: firearms are essential tools for self-defense, and their presence has saved countless lives by preventing violent crimes. I urge legislators to reject this unconstitutional and dangerous bill and instead focus on measures that target criminals, not innocent citizens exercising their right to self-protection.</p>
<p>Shanteal Bucholz Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill goes against all second amendment rights. Any amendment to this bill should not be allowed as that is not what has been voted through all the way until this point. Amendments are simply a scapegoat to try to get this arrogant and extremely overstepping bill to pass. If this bill passes it will also take away money from Colorado in the shooting, industry, hunting industry, and other recreational areas. Shut this bill down! This is not what the people want and it goes against our Bill of Rights? Guns are not the problem and those that use them responsibly and ethically should not be punished for the actions of criminals.</p>
<p>Joshua Fauvie Against themselves</p>	<p>I urge you all to vote no on SB25-003. This will do nothing to prevent crime and will only punish legal gun owners. Mental health and criminality are what need to be addressed.</p>
<p>Mark Schultz Against themselves</p>	<p>Re: SB 25-003</p> <p>Dear Colorado Governor & Legislators,</p>

	<p>My name is Mark Schultz, I have been an avid hunter and fisherman in the state Colorado for over 27 years, a gun owner, and a resident of Colorado since 2018. This testimonial respectfully requests and thanks you in advance for your efforts to ensure SB25-003 does not become law.</p> <p>This bill is based on a failed federal bill. Verbiage has been added and offers only further confusion to a poorly written bill. Worse yet, the safety and/or wellbeing of Colorado residents remains unaddressed and unimproved.</p> <p>In reviewing the most current Fiscal Note (dated 03/30/25) the assumptions clearly state there will be minimal or no increase in costs, case filings and/or convictions.</p> <p>Where additional costs are noted, they are assumed to be minimal and will be funded by appropriations from the cash funds of the agencies being asked to perform the lions share of the work and fees. With over 1.9 million legal gun owners in the state of Colorado complying with this law will create costs and burdens far beyond your assumptions.</p> <p>If your goal is to create a safer environment for Colorado residents there will be significant increases to expenditures made for, case filings, prosecutions, management, and implementation. If you apply your assumptions to this bill, it is like you are planning to fail. Why create a law you assume will be unsuccessful.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Mark Schultz 708.436.9142 mcs421@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>Peter Pres Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representative,</p> <p>I urge you to vote no on this unconstitutional monstrosity of a bill. Self defense should not be denied to the underprivileged and marginalized individuals in our society.</p> <p>This is not what Coloradans want, left or right. We don't want to be a test case for National gun ban groups.</p> <p>We as firearm owners won't forget this in the coming elections and will work with any recall that is brought forth.</p>

	<p>Regards, Peter Pres</p>
<p>Mark Jacobs Against themselves</p>	<p>Please vote NO on SB25-003. This is a blatant unconstitutional infringement on our second amendment rights. Coloradans deserve much better than something so disgustingly distasteful as SB25-003. Thank you.</p>
<p>Jennifer Cox Against themselves</p>	<p>This is the most uneducated bill text I have read. Trying to introduce such nonsense at this point flies in the face of recent supreme court rulings. If passed, at least it will be amusing to see how someone has to explain what in the world anything a Walther PPK has to do with an AR type firearm. Also, I feel the current atmosphere in Colorado is primed for mass recall efforts, far more so than the spirit of those a decade ago.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: Committee for State, Veterans, & Military Affairs House Judiciary Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee RE: SB25-003 Semi-Automatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices FROM: Jeany Rush, Colorado Constituent 3-11-25</p> <p>AS WE SPEAK OF A BILL TO LIMIT THE 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF LAWFULL WAPONS OWNERS, OWNERS WHO DO IN FACT, TRAIN, ABIDE BY LAWS, AND REPRESENT THE RESPONSIBLE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS. INHIBITING PARTS, FUNCTIONS, ETC. IS NOT A ROLE OF THE LEGISLATURE. "SHALL NOT INFRINGE" IS THE EXACT TERM FOR THE SECOND AMENDMENT.</p> <p>EVERY SHOOTING THAT OCCURS, IS IN FACT, NOT IN THE NAME OF LEGAL WEAPONS OWNERS, NOR IS IT DONE BY PEOPLE IN A REASONABLE SITUATION.</p> <p>Over the last 52 years 100% of the school shootings by Teenagers were by those youth on some type of antidepressants, or anxiety medications. Dr. Ardis.</p> <p>Examples are: Prozac, Zoloft, Zanax, etc.</p> <p>These in themselves will in fact, increase suicidal behaviors and actions to lead to violence or homicidal behaviors.</p> <p>Most of the last 7 or 8 shootings which were done by Trans Citizens were not highlighted in the mainstream media. They also are taking numerous drugs which will have questionable results on them.</p> <p>The Elephant in this room is not the guns, the bullets, nor parts for guns. The bullets you are lobbying at our communities towards destroying our children under the guise of affirming care/ gender, etc., is more damaging on humanity than the supposed bullets you are claiming harm innocents. It is criminals, and mentally ill individuals who are abusing the weapons. It is not the law abiding citizens, who are already TOO over regulated. They already abide by training, or law. It is once again, not the role of this body to Overrule federal and constitutional laws!</p>

	<p>More people have been saved by lawful weapons owners, than any other. The obvious, often Bloomberg bot generated mass bills to take away our rights all over America are violations of our freedoms. Vilainizing the law abiding citizens, will not make cities safer. Your attack on our rights will not make most of us safer!</p>
<p>Teresa Buttler For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill</p>
<p>Lori Diversey Against themselves</p>	<p>Vote NO SB25-003</p> <p>I would say you are disingenuous about SB003. Mass shootings are a convenient talking point to scare people into thinking that more gun control Bills will protect. To the point always made about gun control Bills is the possibly of 'this one' preventing mass shooting from happening is false. There are background checks in place and that's done nothing. Criminals still get guns. Why do you lead people to think that more gun control on law abiding citizens needs to be taken along with a background check that criminals won't get a gun?</p> <p>Why don't you figure out a way to keep the guns, illegally acquired, out of the hands of criminals? And the more people that carry the fewer the people will go where the guns might be.</p> <p>All this bill is doing is infringing on the 2A in Colorado. Since you know this and if passed will go to court, why do you want to spend taxpayer funds on lawsuits?</p>
<p>Donald Witte Against themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern -</p> <p>This bill represents yet another attack on law abiding citizens in Colorado.</p> <p>The passage of this bill will inevitably lead to the state being sued and consequently spending tax payer dollars to once again litigate an obviously un-Constitutional piece of legislation.</p> <p>The bill being proposed is simply a "poll tax" on firearms. It is the use of laborious, time consuming and expensive regulations to prevent lab abiding citizens from exercising their right to keep and bear arms.</p>

	<p>Just as changing the time and date of a hearing to bleed employed citizens of their paid time off to hamper and prevent their ability to testify in person - this legislation is yet another gross abuse of process.</p> <p>Citizens are not granted their rights by partisan radical leftist politicians - we do not need permission to be granted, licensed or trained nor do we need to pay fees to exercise our rights. This is a poll tax on firearms.</p> <p>Rather than preventing our citizens from being able to defend themselves, perhaps our government should focus on removing the swarm they allowed of the thousands of people in our community here illegally - many of whom seem quite well armed when they are roving around in gangs in our state committing violent crimes and burglaries with illegal weapons</p>
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SB25-003 – Semi-automatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Greetings distinguished members of the House Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony for Bill SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices.

I am Tom Wilson and my wife and I live in Aurora. We have two grown sons, lovely daughters-in-law, and three adorable grandchildren. One of the primary reasons I'm offering testimony is because I don't want those kiddos to experience the gun violence that 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.

Semi-automatic military style weapons attached with high-capacity magazines are responsible for some of the deadliest acts of gun violence in our State. It is time to put some teeth into the 2013 law, prohibiting magazines capable of holding more than 15 rounds of ammunition.

Our lawmakers need to do more to strengthen state law to ACTUALLY keep those deadly accessories out of the hands of potential mass shooters and criminals.

Right now, those deadly high-capacity magazines are legally sold in six neighboring states. We have seen how deadly it is when a shooter has access to high-capacity magazines.

This must stop NOW! In order to prevent future tragedies and save lives, lawmakers must close this dangerous loophole, and ban high-powered, military style firearms that accept detachable high-capacity magazines.

Do it. Do it *now* for Haley, Beckett and Maya.

Thank you.

Dear Members of the Colorado Legislature,

I write to express my profound concerns regarding Senate Bill 25-003 (SB 25-003), which proposes a permit-to-purchase requirement for specified semiautomatic firearms. This bill not only raises significant constitutional issues under both federal and state law but also poses practical challenges that may adversely affect law-abiding citizens without effectively addressing crime rates.

Federal Constitutional Concerns

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution unequivocally 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.” The U.S. Supreme Court, in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), affirmed that this right is individual and encompasses firearms “in common use” for lawful purposes such as self-defense.

SB 25-003 seeks to regulate semiautomatic rifles, shotguns with detachable magazines, and gas-operated semiautomatic handguns. These categories include firearms that have been commonly owned and used by millions of Americans for decades. By imposing a permit-to-purchase requirement, the bill effectively places a prior restraint on a fundamental constitutional right. Such a measure is analogous to requiring a permit before one can exercise free speech or practice a chosen religion.

Furthermore, the recent Supreme Court decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* (2022) emphasized that any firearm regulation must be consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation. The Court struck down New York’s “proper cause” requirement for concealed carry permits, underscoring that modern regulations must align with historical practices. Permit-to-purchase schemes, especially for firearms in common use, lack historical precedent and thus may not withstand constitutional scrutiny under the Bruen framework.

State Constitutional Concerns

The Colorado Constitution further reinforces the right to bear arms. Article II, Section 13 states: “The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons.” This provision explicitly protects an individual’s right to possess firearms for self-defense and property protection.

SB 25-003’s permit-to-purchase requirement calls into question this constitutionally protected right. By necessitating governmental pre-approval before acquiring certain firearms, the bill imposes a barrier that could deter individuals from exercising their rights under the state constitution. Such a prerequisite not only infringes upon personal liberties but also sets a concerning precedent for the regulation of other fundamental rights.

Ineffectiveness in Crime Reduction

Empirical evidence on the efficacy of permit-to-purchase laws in reducing crime is mixed. While some studies suggest a correlation between such laws and decreased firearm homicides, others find no significant impact. It's crucial to recognize that correlation does not imply causation. Criminals, by definition, do not adhere to laws; thus, additional permitting requirements are unlikely to deter those intent on committing crimes.

Moreover, Colorado already mandates universal background checks for all firearm purchases, a measure designed to prevent prohibited individuals from acquiring firearms. Implementing a permit-to-purchase system adds redundancy without clear evidence of additional public safety benefits. Instead, it imposes further bureaucratic hurdles on law-abiding citizens exercising their constitutional rights.

Adverse Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens

Law-abiding citizens are the most affected by permit-to-purchase requirements. Such mandates often entail fees, mandatory training courses, and waiting periods. These requirements can be particularly burdensome for individuals in rural areas, those with limited financial resources, or those seeking firearms for immediate self-defense needs.

Additionally, the administrative burden on law enforcement agencies to process permits could lead to delays and inefficiencies. Resources diverted to manage a new permitting system might be better allocated to initiatives directly targeting criminal activity.

Conclusion

While the intent behind SB 25-003—to enhance public safety—is commendable, the approach raises substantial constitutional and practical concerns. The bill's permit-to-purchase requirement for commonly used semiautomatic firearms infringes upon rights protected by both the U.S. and Colorado Constitutions. Furthermore, there is insufficient evidence to suggest that such a measure would effectively reduce crime rates. Instead, it is likely to place undue burdens on law-abiding citizens.

I urge the legislature to reconsider SB 25-003 and explore alternative strategies that uphold constitutional rights while effectively addressing public safety concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

ENS Jared Iversen

Larkspur Arms

6489 Winged Foot Court, Larkspur, Colorado 80118 925-899-9953

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Open Letter to Hon. Colorado Lawmakers

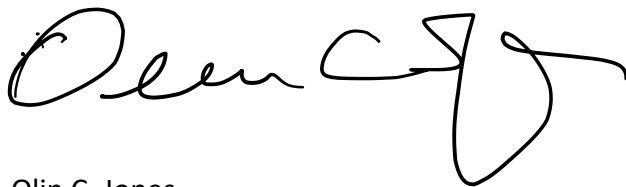
I am writing to urge you to firmly oppose SB25-003. This bill would violate the guarantees of the right to bear arms enshrined in both the Colorado and United States Constitutions.

I write as a Federal Firearms Licensee who safely and legally facilitates firearms transactions in Colorado. Thirteen years ago, I moved here because this state upholds the freedoms and fundamental principles of our constitutional government. I was raised in a family that has honored these enduring ideals throughout my 76 years and across our four generations of proud military service.

Many gun laws are already established at the state and federal levels, yet criminals continue to ignore them. We don't lack laws; we lack the determination and courage to enforce the ones we have. Highly publicized tragedies highlight our failures in providing mental health care to those who urgently need it. We should allocate resources immediately and directly to assist our citizens in becoming healthy and productive members of society.

Passing this bill would restrict law-abiding citizens, including women, minorities, and marginalized individuals, from acquiring weapons for self-defense. How absurd does that sound? I moved here to run a business that serves the rural, traditional landowners of Colorado, many of whom protect their property, families, and livestock with firearms. To many of us, guns are just another tool. Naturally, any tool can be misused by unstable individuals; I urge you not to penalize the many good citizens of Colorado due to the fear stemming from those who face mental, psychological, and social challenges.

Passing this bill will push many more to leave the state, taking their businesses, money, and common sense with them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olin C. Jones', with a stylized, flowing script.

Olin C. Jones

Mountains Of Tyranny

SB 25-003 is an illegal bill that attacks the inalienable and Constitutionally protected right to bear arms

Ryan Evans

Extremist Democrats continue to expand their assault on the second amendment rights of their law-abiding-citizens in Colorado. [Senate bill 25-003](#) was introduced in January. New expansive gun control efforts, less than 6 months after armed illegal alien Venezuelan gang members were [captured on video](#), raiding apartments in Aurora.

This bill proposed prohibiting the sale of virtually all modern semi-automatic firearms that accept detachable magazines. If passed in its original form, it would be one of the most extreme gun control bills in the history of the US. It would outlaw sale of all modern firearms and disarm future generations. The sponsors and supporters of this bill are therefore accurately labeled as political extremists.

Part of the anti-gun lobby and Democrat strategy in Colorado and nationally, is to incrementally erode rights. Laws that harass hunters, outdoorsman, lawful gun owners, and [FFL's](#) business from every possible aspect. From the Denver capitol building, secured by armed guards, Democrats propose a myriad of gun laws in Colorado. In 2024, [several](#) passed into law: a sin tax on guns and ammo, vehicle storage law, increased requirements for concealed permits, are but a sampling.

This 2025 bill is not popular in the state, nor does it reflect the people's will. [Polls](#) show that Coloradans do not want any new gun control. As of February 5th, 52% oppose SB 25-003 while 41% support it. There's 80% support for laws that have harsher penalties for criminals who steal firearms.

Thousands of Coloradans have voiced their specific opposition to SB 25-003. On January 28th, during a public testimony period, people traveled to the capital, from all over the State, some commuting many hours.

Some gun control advocates also spoke to support this new bill. Many were schoolchildren, not yet old enough to vote, and their teachers. Many discussed school shootings. None could explain how this or any other law, might prevent deranged criminals from getting and using weapons.

This law would certainly face expensive legal challenges, and further be expensive to enforce. A fact yet to be addressed by lawmakers. How much is it going to cost? What is the plan to pay for it? How much money will it cost for Sheriff departments to run training and background checks and issue millions more licenses?

If one actually cared about schools, would the money wasted on licensing law abiding citizens to purchase guns, be better used to purchase hardening measures and hiring armed security for schools? Why not propose a bill that actually protects our children? Neither the relatively small group of supporters of the law, nor the Democrats were able to offer up any logical explanations. Supporters wrapped up their illogical and emotional testimony, before dinner time.

The larger and more diverse crowd of those opposed to this bill, continued to speak against the bill past the 11pm cutoff: Citizens and Law enforcement described how the proposed law is unconstitutional and makes guns less safe; Liberals expressed the need for arms for fear of Trump's administration; Rural ranchers described real threats they've faced, and the long law enforcement response times; Women and victims of violent crime, expressed how they need these guns to defend themselves from criminals.

Many who were in line to speak against this bill, in person, or online, never got a chance before the clock ran out. Despite this overwhelming display of opposition by citizens, sponsors rammed the bill through the Democrat majority committee.

Colorado SB 25-003 was brought for a Senate vote on February 13th. Despite a significant majority, Democrats were unable to pass a vote, without an amendment for a firearm purchase licensing scheme. This amendment would allow people to buy an otherwise illegal semi-automatic firearm, only after lengthy and expensive training courses. This idea is similar to the FOIA requirements of Illinois, [recently found to be unconstitutional](#).

Democrats' real purpose and agenda were revealed during deliberations. One of the bill's sponsors, openly lamented that there was nothing he could do about hundreds of millions of legal guns already owned by **Americans**. He articulated his purpose for the bill as limiting the future amount of guns in circulation, by reducing legal sales. This is a textbook deliberate infringement of Coloradans second amendment right to bear arms.

Senator Gonzales, another Senate sponsor of the bill, appeared in disbelief that Republicans didn't support an unconstitutional licensing scheme. Incredulously, she stated that since it's ok to require classes and a license to drive a car, it's ok to pass a law requiring a license to purchase guns. She clearly fails to comprehend the distinction between rights and privileges. Her lack of understanding of basic American civics was embarrassing and appalling.

Would Senator Gonzales or any other gun control extremist, support a requirement for classes and fees to register to vote? Was I required to take classes and get a purchase a license before buying this computer, or my phone, to exercise my 1st Amendment right? Of course not. Similarly, our state legislative body has no legal authority to pass such licensing requirements for 2nd Amendment rights.

She was further perplexed by conceal carry licensing. If you are ok with concealed carry licensing schemes, why not a gun purchasing licensing scheme? The short answer is that concealed carry schemes are unconstitutional.

We upstanding citizens do not need the permission of the government to carry weapons for personal defense. A preponderance of States in the US, [31](#) in total, have enshrined "Constitutional carry" or "permitless carry" into their laws. The inalienable right to self defense, is legally enshrined in the second amendment. Further government permission slips are unnecessary.

The amendment completely changed the effect of the bill. It now only exists, to further harass and delay lawful attempts to purchase guns. Like most crimes, the first Senate vote passed in the middle of the night. The public did not get an opportunity to comment or debate the massive changes.

SB 25-003 sponsors have stated that this bill was coordinated with Governor Jared Polis' office. Governor Polis is rumored to have national political aspirations. His image and reputation will suffer greatly, should he continue his assault on our 2nd amendment rights. Any politician who supports this extreme and illegal bill will rightly carry a stain on their record that is not quickly or easily forgotten.

Tone deaf Colorado Democrats continue attempts to ignore and evade their citizens. After pushing gun control in 2024, they lost seats at the State and Federal level. It seems they need to lose more elections and recalls, before the lesson of assaulting Americans rights is fully learned.

The first magazine fed semi automatic gun was invented in 1893. After Coloradans rejected and ignored the 15 round magazine ban for over a decade, Democrats now want to double down on failed policy and attempt to restrict 132 year old technology in the era of the internet and 3d printers? This bill will not keep these weapons from those who want them, it will only expand on the gun grey and black markets or leave lawful citizens vulnerable to criminals.

Gun laws and gun free zones only encourage criminals and ensure their victims are unarmed. If we want to stop school shootings, I urge you to propose legislation with measures that work. My son's school has hardened their facilities and hired armed security. Those are measures that prevent and reduce the effects of violent offenders. Vote no to save the money from the lawsuits against this legislation and invest it in the same type of security that you have defending you at our capitol building, for our children at our schools.

SB25-003 would have serious negative impacts to recreation. I am a hunter and participate in shooting sports. I would no longer be able to legally purchase or replace many of my firearms or equipment if it were to somehow break or be destroyed. The State would likely lose many millions of dollars in revenue from CPW as sportsman would choose to hunt and shoot in other states.

This bill would have negative economic impacts to local business. I'm friends with two owners of gun stores in Colorado Springs. They have worked very hard for decades to build respectable businesses, which would be destroyed by this bill.

SB 25-003 flagrantly violate the rights of Coloradans. It clearly violates the plain language of the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution, and the language of the Colorado Constitution:

“The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person, and property, or aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question...”

This bill not only calls rights into question, but clearly infringes those rights. It further defies the [US Supreme Court Bruen decision](#). Why are Colorado citizens second amendment rights being treated as second class rights?

This proposed bill would be illegal and unable to withstand a modicum of judicial scrutiny. Attempts to ban arms in common use is a 2nd Amendment violation under the Heller precedent. Attempts at sweeping bans of commonly used firearms were additionally struck down in the 2010 USSC McDonald case.

Will the Justice department and [Trump's administration](#) hold states accountable for their unconstitutional gun laws, initiate lawsuits and withhold federal funds from Colorado? I will be sure to ask them to. Will the Supreme court's 2nd Amendment [Heller](#), [McDonald](#), and [Bruen](#) decisions be implemented or followed up on? For Colorado to be a free State and America a free nation with equal protections for citizens, they must. It is past time, for out of control tyrants in Denver, to be held to account for their attempts to rob citizens of their rights.

Ryan Evans is a free American citizen, long time resident of Colorado, Army veteran, Defense expert, mediocre hunter and sport shooter.

Honorable Legislators.

I'm not an NRA member but I am a student of history. If I (or you) could wave a magic wand and eliminate all guns in the world, I would do so. But that is the only gun control measure that would succeed in stopping all gun deaths.

Every effort to limit or restrict or make more difficult the purchase of a firearm of any kind is a step toward leaving firearms only in the hands of those who don't respect laws and portend malevolence. Those folks will always find a way to acquire their firearm. And they have no qualms about being labeled a violator of some standing gun law.

History has shown that ultimately more bloodshed will eventually occur with a disarmed citizenry than with an armed citizenry. If I were convinced that this would be your final restrictive piece of legislation with regards to "gun violence" (as you so inaccurately put it), I would be all in. But it will not be your final effort. You will not, however, stop here (even if you don't realize it). The forces that control the antigun lobby profess safety and compassion, but the real motive is to concentrate control (power in the form of "who gets to have the guns") in the hands of an extremely "enlightened" minority of which they think will be them and their ideological cronies.

It is true that more guns will mean more accidental deaths, more homicides, more suicides. This is the high price of an armed citizenry. And the numbers are fractional millionths of the bloodshed that finally occurs when only the "elite" get to have "the guns". History is crystal clear on that. And you have yet to convince me that your ultimate destination with "gun violence" bills is not to achieve complete elimination of firearms in the hands of regular citizens. I don't believe you yourselves are aware of your deeper motives and dishonestly have convinced yourselves you are protecting potential victims. If you were serious about protecting potential victims you would focus your efforts on sex trafficking, illegal drugs, drunk driving, violent video games, social media's influence in cultural degradation, etc. These issues ruin far more lives than the 100 or so people in the last 20 years that a "detachable magazine" has contributed to.

SB25-003 is nothing more than the same subtle Marxist influence having its way in the brains of democratic leadership who claim they have a monopoly on compassion.

Freedom is lost one small increment at a time. This bill is one of those increments. The democratic establishment's pawns (legislators) always pushing these bills through our legislature are simply haters of freedom and see government as the "be-all, end-all" path to a utopia where only a few live free and the rest of us are under their thumb. I hate guns, but I love freedom. Go after the evil. This is a problem of malevolence in the hearts and hands of those who have given themselves over to that

evil. Don't attack the tool they use to perpetrate evil (the gun). Even if all guns are eliminated, they will find a different avenue. Attack the problem, not the tool.

If we keep rewarding you by passing such bills as this, the time will come when a message such as I am writing here will place my own security in peril at the hands of those who have succeeded in acquiring total control and wiping out all freedoms except that of kowtowing to their groupthink.

Concerned and disappointed in Colorado.

Randolph Travis, 15628 Valentia Street, Thornton, Colorado 270-841-7706

I strongly urge all members of this committee to OPPOSE this unconstitutional infringement of our rights.

SB25-003 will do nothing to slow or stop crime, it will ONLY harm law abiding citizens and make it more difficult for good honest Americans to exercise their rights of self defense. Disarming law abiding citizens or placing obstacles for them to exercise their second amendment rights will only make crime worse because criminals know that people without guns are easy targets.

Why do you think that a criminal who is willing to commit MURDER is going to be deterred in any way by your other schemes to prevent EVERYONE from owning firearms!? Do you really think they are above stealing someone else's gun or buying one on the black market? Really?? You do know that murder is already illegal right?

Do you know the best deterrent to any kind of mass shooting, any kind of home invasion, robbery... etc.? A gun in the hands of a law abiding citizen or armed security. You want to protect our schools, theaters, places of worship? You want Coloradans to be safer? I know I do, the way to do it is to put armed security at the entrances with metal detectors. ENFORCE the no gun policy in these places if you really want to stop these evil acts.

A sign on a door that says "no guns" means ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to an evil person willing to commit murder. If you think otherwise, you are completely delusional or you are lying.

According to the FBI's own statistics, guns are used FAR more often for defensive purposes than crimes. These defensive acts either prevent a crime or put a stop to a crime being committed. How often does a criminal enter a gas station intent on robbing it but they see a customer with a gun on their hip and think "maybe robbing this store is a bad idea", so the crime never happens or a mugger gets a gun pulled on them and they immediately bolt? These sorts of things happen all the time, and if we encouraged responsible gun ownership instead of demonizing it, the options for criminals seeking an unarmed target would diminish rapidly. This would make many criminals rethink their choices because none of them want to die which would make EVERYONE safer. "An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life." - Robert Heinlein

Why do you politicians have armed security? If a gun in the hands of a good guy doesn't stop bad guys, why do you have good guys around you, with guns, whose job is specifically to stop bad guys? Us poor

peasants can't afford armed security guards, so why do you want us to be unable to defend ourselves against the same bad guys? If armed security didn't work, you wouldn't have it, but you know it works. So why don't you implement it at the places that you claim to care so much about protecting instead of trying to reduce the number of good guys around with guns? It's almost like you are on the side of the bad guys. You aren't, are you?

Ask yourselves, deep down, is this right? Does this bill make sense and does it make Colorado safer? You know the answer is no, and you know I speak the truth. I know you know this because you have armed security. So please, stop being hypocrites and stop trying to take our constitutional rights away. It's wrong and you know it.

Opposition to SB25-003

First and most importantly, I am an American who wants to exercise his rights without infringement. This bill slaps every law abiding citizen in the face while simultaneously continuing the build up of criminal elements in this state.

Without exception, Colorado is creating a black market for firearms, firearms parts, and firearms accessories. There have been several bills in the last couple years that have targeted Coloradans rights. Namely, last year's bills in the form of an assault weapons ban, an excise tax, a storage law, and the mandated training requirement for concealed carry have significantly made it financially difficult to obtain a firearm, train with a firearm, and to maintain a firearm, unless of course you wear a government uniform and a badge. Then and only then are you "allowed" to exercise your rights without question.

Senate Bill 3 creates a whole new infringement layer to the "keep and possess" clause of the Second Amendment. In order to keep and possess in a concealed fashion, a Colorado citizen must attend a Concealed Handgun Course that is eight hours in length, in person. Then they can obtain their Concealed Carry Permit for a fee. That course is NOT recognized for either the basic firearms safety course or the extended firearms safety course this bill creates.

To be clear, I am not endorsing any training requirements set forth by the government. However, it is counter productive to think the eight hour concealed carry course that has already been approved by this Government body would not be accepted for either of the courses that would be acceptable to purchase a "specified semi-automatic"

The eight hour course in accordance to C.R.S. 18-12-202.7 must cover Knowledge and safe handling of firearms and ammunition; Safe storage of firearms and child safety; Safe firearms shooting fundamentals; Federal and state laws pertaining to the lawful purchase, ownership, transportation, use, and possession of firearms; Extreme Risk Protection Orders described in Article 14.5 of Title 13; Requirements for reporting lost or stolen firearms as described in C.R.S. 18-12-113; Requirements for secure firearms storage as described in C.R.S. 18-12-114; State laws pertaining to the use of deadly force for self-defense; Instruction on any other state law enacted within 5 years before the class that pertains to the purchase, ownership, transportation, use, and possession of firearms; Best practices to ensure concealed handgun permit holders safely interact with law enforcement personnel who are responding to an emergency; and Instruction regarding techniques for avoiding a criminal attack and how to manage a violent confrontation, including conflict resolution and judgmental use of lethal force.

Students must complete a live-fire exercise on a range, discharging at least 50 rounds with a minimum 70% accuracy score and students must complete a written Concealed Handgun Competency exam which tests a student's knowledge of the subjects described with a minimum score of 80%.

The blitzkrieg on our rights needs to stop immediately as all of the Representatives and Senators have an oath to keep regardless of the bias against firearms and any anecdotal evidence they use to perpetuate more laws that infringe on everyday Coloradans that only want to live in peace as free as they can.

David Williams
1345 Stell Dr Colorado Springs CO 80921



3/11/2025

House Judiciary Members,

I'm writing today in Opposition to Senate Bill 003, the proposed Semi-Automatic Ban which has been amended to a "Permit to Purchase" bill. The original Semi-Automatic Firearm ban morphed from the most unconstitutional proposed ban on our Second Amendment rights, to a Permit-to-Purchase Bill. I begin my opposition with this bill by stating that this is not a grassroots bill. From my understanding, carbon copies are being proposed in multiple other states at this very moment. Therefore, it is disingenuous to hear multiple members on the House Judiciary bill state that this was/is a Colorado centric bill.

Outside of the likely effect of this bill which will unconstitutionally limit law-abiding Colorado residents second amendment rights, my additional concerns include:

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

This Bill creates an unfunded obligation to the County Sheriffs' and/or the Colorado Parks and Wildlife ("Government Agency") to regulate the licensing of individuals to purchase common firearms. There is no guarantee of funding. The State legislature can veto funding of the Government Agency and reduce the ability of the Government Agency to process applications or provide adequate quantities of the training course. The inability to obtain the required training and subsequent "permit" essentially creates a soft ban on these firearms.

LACK OF FIREARMS HANDLING COURSE/AVAILABILITY:

The state already suffers from lack of Hunter Education courses. If we cannot provide a hunter safety course that has been around for decades to meet demand, there is no way that the Government Entity can/will provide enough courses to meet the inevitable demand. This will not be a days or weeks issue but will become a month/years issue. Again, these courses require funding and there is no guarantee that the State Legislature will fund these operations or approval of third-party training, essentially leading to a ban on purchasing these firearms.

EXPANDS BUREAUCRACY:

This bill requires additional Sheriffs or CPW personnel. There is no guarantee of funding for this bureaucracy either at the local or state level. The County Sheriffs could use this personal to enforce laws, fight crime, hire investigators or do actual police work. CPW could use this personnel for wildlife conservation, parks and trail maintenance and/or other wildlife programs. Additionally, a larger bureaucracy is harder to manage and creates the ability of unelected bureaucrats to arbitrarily deny permits. The larger the bureaucracy, the harder to challenge or overcome an arbitrarily denied permit. A denied permit will also require a new adjudication process or will further clog up the judicial system.

NO GUARANTEE OF ISSUANCE:

There is a question whether this Bill requires the Government Entity to issue a permit if a person is eligible. Similar to many states that have "may" issue CCW permits. I have not seen language in the original Bill that requires the Government Entity to issue a permit if a person is eligible. This Bill should at a minimum



be amended to include “Shall Issue” language guaranteeing that if a person passes the firearms training, they shall be issued a permit.

NO GUARANTEE THE LIST OF FIREARMS DOES NOT EXPAND:

If a mass casualty event occurs with a bolt-action rifle. In the next legislative session, a new Bill will expand the prohibited firearm category. Which will continue until there are no firearm purchases without the permit. This amended bill is a stepping-stone for future firearm inclusions on the prohibited list. This could eventually lead to the inclusion of all firearms.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:

As an owner of Determinator Targets, a company that produces ethical hunting targets, I am all for training. All of our customers use our targets to determine their effective range to train and be ethical hunters in the field. We promote training and want all firearm users to train safely so that they can safely and legally use their firearms. Our training targets improve hunting ethics and the skills of their users. Training is important and we are not against firearm training. **Determinator Targets would happily sit down and discuss including our targets within a firearms training program.** Though this bill is touted as a Training Bill (which leads to a Permit to Buy), without funding, adequate number of training courses, and personnel to process the applications, the Bill becomes a soft ban on semi-automatic firearms. That is why I am against this Bill.

If training is restricted due to government funding, that leads to non-issuance of permits. If there is no government funding for CPW or the agencies for personnel, they will not issue permits. If there are no classes, there will be no permits. If it takes a year to get a class or approval to take a class, this is an unreasonable burden on Colorado residents’ 2nd Amendment right. This bill creates government mandated training with no guarantee of funding for classes or personnel to manage the huge number of permits and paperwork involved. CPW already struggles with its competing charges with Parks vs Wildlife vs Enforcement. Adding the permitting for all new semi-automatic gun purchases is an unfunded bureaucratic nightmare. I’m all for training. I’m all for people training with Determinator targets. I’m not for unfunded government mandates which can and likely will essentially lead to a soft ban on semi-automatic firearms.

I respectfully ask that you oppose this Bill.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Howard, Esq

Colorado House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB25-003 and urge you to vote it down.
Here's why:

- It is a dangerous violation of human rights, which are enshrined in our constitution. As you know, the second amendment guarantees the right to bear arms and explicitly adds "shall not be infringed". This bill certainly infringes on that right on many levels.
- The bill is dangerous to law abiding citizens. By making it difficult for citizens to acquire very popular firearms, the bill essentially disarms the citizenry. Guns save lives. The statistics are clear. Guns are used anywhere from 1.5 million to 2.5 million times per year in self-defense, often not requiring a single shot. Each year, as many as 200,000 women use a gun to defend against sexual abuse. When states pass concealed carry laws, certain crimes go down (murder: 8.5%, rapes 5%, etc.)
- The bill is dangerous to property rights. Can't purchase, sell, or transfer? That's authoritarian!
- The bill is dangerous to Colorado's coffers. Do we really think it'll cost what the current estimates are? I'm write software for a living and our rule of thumb is to always take your estimate and multiply by five. What about the cost of hopelessly defending the state against the inevitable lawsuits?

So what is SB25-003 really all about? It's not about making people safer. It's not about upholding our freedoms. Isn't it about "winning"? Isn't it about an out-of-state billionaire inflicting his will upon those whom he looks down upon? Or is there something more sinister that we're missing?

Let's not vote for this dangerous bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Douglas Edmundson

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Let's not vote for this dangerous bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Douglas Edmundson



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

(no subject)

1 message

james pasterz <jpasterz6@gmail.com>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Sun, Mar 9, 2025 at 5:14 PM

I am writing this email to support my constitutional 2nd amendment. Thank you,

Good afternoon,

My name is Justin King, and I am a 40 year resident of Northern Colorado. I am also a NRA instructor in Rifle Shooting, Muzzleloading, Shotgun Shooting, Pistol Shooting, Home Firearms Safety, and a Chief Range Safety Officer, working primarily with the Boy Scouts of America training today's youth on how to responsibly and safely handle and enjoy firearms both in the BSA program, and in their personal lives.

From about 1996 to the early 2000's I was very involved with a Boy Scout Venture Crew that specialized in Shooting Sports. We regularly attended public events. Shotgun shoots, rifle shoots, pistol shoots etc. were all on our agenda as kids. And no pun intended, we had an absolute blast responsibly shooting firearms.

Senate bill 25-003 is a terribly misguided piece of legislation that will not accomplish anything to make Colorado safer. In fact, it will make the handling of firearms exponentially more dangerous as anyone who has been around firearms the slightest bit knows that malfunctions can and will happen at any time. You could have a round stove pipe, mis-feed, jam into the chamber; or you could have a squib load where your bullet lodges mid-way down the barrel. The inability to immediately remove the magazine from the firearm will likely impede your ability to clear that malfunction in a safe manner. If you are having to manipulate the action of a loaded firearm, that is a recipe for disaster. You often have to hold handguns and long guns in violation of the 3 firearm safe handling rules to get these malfunctions to clear. People are going to die if they cannot remove the source of ammunition (IE the magazine) rapidly from their firearms.

Not to mention, if you have a fixed magazine in a rifle with a stuck action, you may be forced to commit a misdemeanor and violate CRS 33-6-125, by possessing a loaded shotgun or rifle in a motor vehicle while returning home or to a gunsmith.

This bill also fails to address the root cause of mass shootings in Colorado, which time and time again has been proven to be perpetrated by citizens with an underlying mental illness. Of all the legislation that is targeting the lawful firearms owner, nothing has been presented to address the root cause of the abuse of these tools. Mental illness.

While I can sympathize with Mr. Sullivan's loss of a child, using this as an excuse to strip rights away from law abiding Colorado citizens is simply the wrong approach. As a child of the 80's and 90's, I was a 17 year old Loveland High School Senior when the April 2000 Columbine High School Shooting took place. Without intervention from any adult, peer, parent, etc. I knew immediately that hate in those shooters' hearts was the source of their evil. Evil will always find a way. Much like Hate and Evil was directly involved with the 1993 Aurora Restaurant Shooting, the previously mentioned Columbine shooting, the 2006

Platte Canyon High School Shooting, the 2007 Church Shootings, the horrible 2012 Aurora Theater Shooting, the 2013 Arapahoe High School Shooting, the 2019 STEM School Shooting, the 2021 King Soopers Shooting, and the 2022 Club Q shooting.

Please vote no on this horrific penalty and punishment to law abiding Colorado Citizens, and instead bring forth legislation that directly addresses the hate and mental illness running rampant in our society.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin King

To the Hearing Committee – SB25-003 – Opposed

As a law bidding U.S./Colorado citizen I whole heartily oppose this bill and all bills that inhibit and/or infringe on our rights. This bill in its original form was an all out ban on the most popular and purchased fires arms, not only in this state, but in this country. Hidden behind clever language and written by an anti-gun/anti-2A group from a different state. To believe that those who support and sponsor this bill and any bill like it are seeking “common sense” gun laws and most importantly safety and saving lives is laughable.

For example, the vast majority, if not all, who support and voted to pass this bill thus far also support and vote for abortion. Now let's compare some numbers on this matter. In 2023 alone the state reported just under 15K abortions, but independent studies estimated that number to be closer to 25k. Even if we split that difference, we are looking at 20k abortions. Compared to gun related deaths this amount is astronomical. In 2023 there was an estimated 1k gun related death, in which 673 were suicide related and 237 were homicide. To preach that this bill and bills like it are to save lives is absolutely hypocritical. Doing basic math anyone can see there are 20 times more deaths by abortion if not more. 20k plus lives ended before they even started compared to 1k who at least had a chance to live theirs. Where is the overabundance of support and bills to push for more mental health resources? Suicide and violence are a direct symptom of an unstable mental health which can be overwhelmingly combatted by intervention to help with mental illness. But let's go after the tool (firearms) and not the root cause. Hypocritical in the plainest of sense.

That being said, let's look at the commonsense portion of their claims. Plain and simple the original unamended version of this bill was not in any way shape or form commonsense. It was an outright ban. Even now with the new amendments to this bill it is still a ban on the most commonly used and purchased firearms; unless law abiding citizens earn their Right to Bear Arms, and pay for their Rights to Bear Arms, and even then, can be denied by the government on pure looks alone. How is that commonsense? The only people who this bill effects are law abiding citizens. Criminals and psychopaths do not care about laws and regulations. It'll continue to help enlarge the black market and criminal enterprises who supply other criminals with weapons they are going to use illegally. It'll push law abiding citizens to the black market and deter future firearm owners from exercising their Rights, which I'm sure is the intention of those who vote in favorite of this bill and bills like it. There is nothing commonsense about this bill.

Now that the commonsense and saving lives nonsense of those who support and vote for this bill and any bill like it has been address let's move on to all the other glaring problems this bill presents to this state, its communities, and most importantly its citizens.

If this bill passes it will essentially allow the “ruling” class to offer their citizens, the opportunity to earn and buy their Rights back. Let me repeat that without sounding condescending, this bill and its supports deem our constitutional rights as a privilege we must earn and buy and not a Right protected by the US Constitution that every free citizen is given at birth. Imagine if we applied these regulations to the other Rights we enjoy in this country. To have to take educational classes, pay for those classes, and then submit to a registry that may or may not approve your Right to Free Speech. Sounds ridiculous right? Well so does this bill and the reasoning behind those who support it. The Right to Bear Arms is as important as all other

Rights, if not more important due to it being the only Right that can truly protect all others from tyranny.

Going back to the thought of privilege, this bill is a privilege only for the wealthy and not a Right for all. The licensing process effectively locks out the lower-income individuals by imposing unregulated costs and time-consuming training. It blatantly favors the wealthy and pushes the right of self defense and Right to Bear Arms out of the reach out those who the supports of this bill pride themselves on being champions of. It brings back the hypocrisy of the supports of this bill stating they fight for the poor and disenfranchised but push for laws/regulations that directly impact them and their Rights the most. Another group of citizens that will be negatively affect by this bill are those with disabilities. Those with learning disabilities, dyslexia or illiteracy for example, have no accommodations whatsoever in this bill. It is neglectful, discriminatory, and is denying fundamental rights based of ability. That is a burden no one deserves.

Burdening seems to be a common tone in this bill such as the overburdening of state resources. This matter must be taken into account when considering any bill that is proposed regardless of its ask. From the information I have obtained nearly every County Commissioner is against this bill due to it increasing cost to the state budget. As we know the leading party, those who support this bill, have driven Colorado into a \$1 billion deficit. The state and its citizens do not need more debt caused by the ignorance of their representatives. On top of the overburdening to the budget the hunter education system will be overwhelmed; by forcing those wanting to own certain firearms to flood CPW hunter safety classes, this bill threatens to overwhelm a system already vital for safe hunting education. It's a thoughtless move that could delay or deter new hunters, undermining traditional hunting practices and conservation efforts.

And lastly, this bill incorporates a gun registry under the disguise of another name. This bill requires recording of everyone that completes the necessary training into a state system. This once again will add to the ever-increasing state deficit. Regardless, this requirement sets a dangerous precedence for a surveillance state and potential future confiscation by giving the government a list of gun owners. It is a clear overstep and overreach of the government that continues to treat law abiding citizens like suspects and subjects and not like Free Citizens. How will this gun registry capture those who unlawfully buy and own firearms? It won't, period. Law abiding citizens take the hit once again.

This bill needs to be stopped and immediately thrown out. It is a gun grab and tactic to deter law abiding citizens from exercising their Right to Bear Arms and their right to self-defense. It is not commonsense, and it will not save lives or reduce crime. Criminals and psychopaths do not care about these laws and regulations. They welcome them because it provides them with more defenseless victims. The burden it will put on Coloradoans and the state budget is far too much and far more then any other state in the union. Do what is right for Colorado and uphold our Rights.

To the Hearing Committee – SB25-003 – Opposed

As a law bidding U.S./Colorado citizen I whole heartily oppose this bill and all bills that inhibit and/or infringe on our rights. This bill in its original form was an all out ban on the most popular and purchased fires arms, not only in this state, but in this country. Hidden behind clever language and written by an anti-gun/anti-2A group from a different state. To believe that those who support and sponsor this bill and any bill like it are seeking “common sense” gun laws and most importantly safety and saving lives is laughable.

For example, the vast majority, if not all, who support and voted to pass this bill thus far also support and vote for abortion. Now let's compare some numbers on this matter. In 2023 alone the state reported just under 15K abortions, but independent studies estimated that number to be closer to 25k. Even if we split that difference, we are looking at 20k abortions. Compared to gun related deaths this amount is astronomical. In 2023 there was an estimated 1k gun related death, in which 673 were suicide related and 237 were homicide. To preach that this bill and bills like it are to save lives is absolutely hypocritical. Doing basic math anyone can see there are 20 times more deaths by abortion if not more. 20k plus lives ended before they even started compared to 1k who at least had a chance to live theirs. Where is the overabundance of support and bills to push for more mental health resources? Suicide and violence are a direct symptom of an unstable mental health which can be overwhelmingly combatted by intervention to help with mental illness. But let's go after the tool (firearms) and not the root cause. Hypocritical in the plainest of sense.

That being said, let's look at the commonsense portion of their claims. Plain and simple the original unamended version of this bill was not in any way shape or form commonsense. It was an outright ban. Even now with the new amendments to this bill it is still a ban on the most commonly used and purchased firearms; unless law abiding citizens earn their Right to Bear Arms, and pay for their Rights to Bear Arms, and even then, can be denied by the government on pure looks alone. How is that commonsense? The only people who this bill effects are law abiding citizens. Criminals and psychopaths do not care about laws and regulations. It'll continue to help enlarge the black market and criminal enterprises who supply other criminals with weapons they are going to use illegally. It'll push law abiding citizens to the black market and deter future firearm owners from exercising their Rights, which I'm sure is the intention of those who vote in favorite of this bill and bills like it. There is nothing commonsense about this bill.

Now that the commonsense and saving lives nonsense of those who support and vote for this bill and any bill like it has been address let's move on to all the other glaring problems this bill presents to this state, its communities, and most importantly its citizens.

If this bill passes it will essentially allow the “ruling” class to offer their citizens, the opportunity to earn and buy their Rights back. Let me repeat that without sounding condescending, this bill and its supports deem our constitutional rights as a privilege we must earn and buy and not a Right protected by the US Constitution that every free citizen is given at birth. Imagine if we applied these regulations to the other Rights we enjoy in this country. To have to take educational classes, pay for those classes, and then submit to a registry that may or may not approve your Right to Free Speech. Sounds ridiculous right? Well so does this bill and the reasoning behind those who support it. The Right to Bear Arms is as important as all other

Rights, if not more important due to it being the only Right that can truly protect all others from tyranny.

Going back to the thought of privilege, this bill is a privilege only for the wealthy and not a Right for all. The licensing process effectively locks out the lower-income individuals by imposing unregulated costs and time-consuming training. It blatantly favors the wealthy and pushes the right of self defense and Right to Bear Arms out of the reach out those who the supports of this bill pride themselves on being champions of. It brings back the hypocrisy of the supports of this bill stating they fight for the poor and disenfranchised but push for laws/regulations that directly impact them and their Rights the most. Another group of citizens that will be negatively affect by this bill are those with disabilities. Those with learning disabilities, dyslexia or illiteracy for example, have no accommodations whatsoever in this bill. It is neglectful, discriminatory, and is denying fundamental rights based of ability. That is a burden no one deserves.

Burdening seems to be a common tone in this bill such as the overburdening of state resources. This matter must be taken into account when considering any bill that is proposed regardless of its ask. From the information I have obtained nearly every County Commissioner is against this bill due to it increasing cost to the state budget. As we know the leading party, those who support this bill, have driven Colorado into a \$1 billion deficit. The state and its citizens do not need more debt caused by the ignorance of their representatives. On top of the overburdening to the budget the hunter education system will be overwhelmed; by forcing those wanting to own certain firearms to flood CPW hunter safety classes, this bill threatens to overwhelm a system already vital for safe hunting education. It's a thoughtless move that could delay or deter new hunters, undermining traditional hunting practices and conservation efforts.

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This bill needs to be stopped and immediately thrown out. It is a gun grab and tactic to deter law abiding citizens from exercising their Right to Bear Arms and their right to self-defense. It is not commonsense, and it will not save lives or reduce crime. Criminals and psychopaths do not care about these laws and regulations. They welcome them because it provides them with more defenseless victims. The burden it will put on Coloradoans and the state budget is far too much and far more then any other state in the union. Do what is right for Colorado and uphold our Rights.

To: House, and Governor of Colorado

Subject: SB25-003

SB25-003 infringes (limits and undermines) our 2nd amendment fundamental right thus decreasing safety; it selectively bans common use firearms (1, 2-6), creates a registry (3), includes excessive burdens (4) and costly requirements (5), creates inordinate delays (4), and allows a government official to subjectively deny the “right to purchase” (2). This bill discriminates against the law-abiding citizen and puts the criminal at an advantage (FBI statistics state 93% of guns used in crimes were obtained illegally):

“The laws that forbid the carrying of arms ... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.”

– Thomas Jefferson, *Commonplace Book* (quoting 18th century criminologist Cesare Beccaria), 1774-1776

“They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

– Benjamin Franklin, *Historical Review of Pennsylvania*, 1759

1. In *District of Columbia v Heller* the Supreme Court quoted in *NYSF Pistol Assoc v Bruen*, 2022: *Its reference to “arms” does not apply “only [to] those arms in existence in the 18th century.” ... the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding.* Further stating this applies to commonly used (modern) firearms for self-defense. This bill, by the nature of it, bans modern firearms (semi-automatic) from wide-reaching groups of citizens.
2. In *Bruen* the Supreme Court only allows for objective reasons (not subjective) to deny permission to purchase saying that a may-issue regime grants open-ended discretion to licensing officials. This bill gives subjective control over gun ownership to the local sheriff, who may deny or revoke permission to purchase if he/she has a reasonable belief if they deem it is likely the person will present a danger to themselves or others.
3. This “firearms safety course eligibility card” acts as a permission slip to take the required course. The result is a registry of those who likely own a gun, not allowed by the Supreme Court who decided a registry is against the 5th amendment (self incrimination).
4. The SB25-003 excessively requires an extensive 12-hour (2-day) firearms course, a state mandated and controlled test. This process could easily take three to six weeks to get the results for federal and state background checks, find an available course, wait for the course, the two days itself, and possible 2nd or 3rd attempts, and all the processing, causing unconstitutional time delays.. This would create obvious log-jams when the

typical 500,000 firearm sales in Colorado require first time initiation of this process, which would create mass needs for the first year. The Supreme Court in (*Bruen*) states they look at “*how and why the regulations burden a law-abiding citizen’s right to armed self-defense*”.

5. This will cost U.S. citizens around \$70 to \$140 (or more if they can’t pass the test) for a right the 2nd Amendment already guarantees us. This poises the gun ban selectively against low income individuals and fixed-income seniors. A 2nd circuit court judge found the Illinois FOID card (a cost of \$11 for 10 a year span), which is less restrictive, unconstitutional.
6. This process requires 90% to pass a state sanctioned firearms safety course test. This is an unconstitutional ban of commonly owned firearms for average citizens and for those with disabilities affected by “test taking”. I have a friend who couldn’t get better than C’s on tests, but very quickly rose to a Director of Systems Analysts department in just a few short years. These mandated tests can be very subjective, unfair, confusing, or made accidentally or intentionally complicated.

Sherri Shannon

“On every occasion [of Constitutional interpretation] let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying [to force] what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, [instead let us] conform to the probable one in which it was passed.”

– Thomas Jefferson, letter to William Johnson, 12 June 1823

TO: JUDICIARY COOMMITTEE

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

DATE: 3/11/2025 1:30 P.M.

SPONSOR: Senator Sullivan and Representative Boesenecker

My name is Jody Nickerson from Jefferson County, and I represent myself.

I am so shocked that this aggressive push on the requirements for someone to protect themselves by getting legally approved to carry the semi-automatic rifle.

I testify on common sense legislation here at the capitol and now I find myself overwhelmed with the many unjust and complicated bills that are trying to push your personal agendas instead of the rights of citizens, your constituents. The bullying language and agenda that is in this bill promotes the infringement of citizens on citizens' rights. This government overreaches in such a negative manner, only supports the fact you can't afford the support the individuals real needs that have used these instruments.

Why are you not bringing more money and resources to those individuals that are non-law-abiding so that we can unite and unify the root problem. You are camouflaging the real problems here and its' now becoming more apparent to the law-abiding citizens.

What bills have been brought in front to help the criminals who are on mental depressants and slipped through the fingers that committed these crimes. It's not the instrument – it is the deranged individuals. Those numbers outweigh the crimes committed by law-abiding citizens. You are making it too difficult for us to obey laws. How many of you own guns? Then you would know it is not semi-automatic itself.

If you attempt to confiscate these guns that now must be dismantled for proper storage, which end would you like?

Please pull this bill and take careful consideration to reflect on the true purpose of this bill.

Dear members of the Colorado House Judiciary Committee,

You will be discussing SB25-003 this Tuesday. I have attached this analysis, using data from the FBI, CDC, NSSF, and University of Chicago to estimate the number of lives saved by this bill.

However, the number of lives saved is negative.

Using our best available data on firearm deaths, both homicides and suicides, and the documented substitution effects that semiautomatic rifle buyers will buy handguns in the face of an assault weapon ban, limitations on semiautomatic rifles increases the number of gun deaths, not decreases the deaths. For every murder prevented from an assault weapon ban, 5.3 new lives are lost. For every suicide prevented by an assault weapon ban, three other lives are lost. This is due to the much more lethal nature of handguns than rifles, even semiautomatic rifles. Though SB25-003 is not an outright ban, the restrictions lead to the same number of lives lost per lives saved.

If SB25-003 passes, more Coloradans will die. This is a simple calculation from the "It's the guns" paradigm.

We need data driven gun policy. I am a supporter of gun safety, and we need to be driven by the numbers. This bill will lead to more Colorado gun deaths.

I hope to testify remotely Tuesday, but I hope you take a look at this timely analysis.

Thank you for your service.

sincerely,
Larry Desjardin
Steamboat Springs
(970) 819-8435

Dear members of the Colorado House Judiciary Committee,

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Thank you for your service.

sincerely,
Larry Desjardin
Steamboat Springs
(970) 819-8435

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

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

Thank you, Chair and Committee,

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

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

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration. While 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.

[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 significant to restrict the ability of mass shooters to use illegally obtained modern firearms.

A Senate amendment to the bill that would allow semi-auto firearms with fixed magazines creates numerous safety and handling problems. To clear a firearm with a fixed magazine, every round must be cycled through the chamber, creating an unnecessary risk of accidental discharge. Most gun cases are not designed for firearms with fixed magazines. Another amendment that allows some citizens access to semi-auto firearms with detachable magazines creates a database of gun owners and discriminates against economically disadvantaged individuals who cannot afford to take the classes required to qualify for the exemption to the proposal.

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
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

Hello committee members and chair my name is Joshua Ingram and I represent myself and I am in opposition of sb25-003 semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire bill because it is unconstitutional and an infringement on our 2A rights, it even says it in the Colorado constitution not just the United States constitution and y'all are destroying it and yall thinking that we will be safe with this bill but to me I don't feel safe if this bill passes here in Colorado also it will cost so much money to do and this state is in enough debt as it is and to pass this bill will make the economy even worse. When I lived in Tennessee, I was able to rightfully defend myself and my family from intruders and if it wasn't for me to have the ability to defend myself and my family we would not be here today.

So now like I've said before I am in opposition of sb25-003 semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire bill please vote no on this bill and to do so will make Colorado a better place to live.

-Thank you for the opportunity to testify-

-Joshua-

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.

Good afternoon, Committee members;

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kelly Ashton

Committee members,

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

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

Respectfully,

Benjamin O'Loughlin

More than two years ago, in *NY Rifle and Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen*, 142 S.Ct. 2111 (2022), the U.S. Supreme Court set forth in a 6-3 decision the legal standard for reviewing restrictions/regulations upon the individual right to keep and bear arms pursuant to the Second Amendment. The complete opinion may be found at https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-843_7j80.pdf

Two salient passages from Justice Thomas' majority opinion:

1. (p. 8) "In keeping with *Heller* (*D.C. v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), holding that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms), we hold that when the Second Amendment's plain text covers an individual's conduct, the Constitution presumptively protects that conduct. To justify its regulation, the government may not simply posit that the regulation promotes an important interest. Rather, the government must demonstrate that the regulation is **consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation**. Only if a firearm regulation is consistent with this Nation's historical tradition may a court conclude that the individual's conduct falls outside the Second Amendment's 'unqualified command.'" *Konigsberg v. State Bar of Cal.*, 366 U. S. 36, 50, n. 10 (1961) (emphasis added)
2. (p. 17) "But while that judicial deference to legislative interest balancing is understandable—and, elsewhere, appropriate—it is not deference that the Constitution demands here. **The Second Amendment 'is the very product of an interest balancing by the people' and it 'surely elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms' for self-defense.** *Heller*, 554 U. S., at 635. It is this balance—struck by the traditions of the American people—that demands our unqualified deference." (emphasis added)

If you read the Court's opinion, especially in context/relation to other Second Amendment cases decided by SCOTUS including *Heller* and *McDonald*, it is readily apparent that the restrictions of the type/form in **SB25-003**—which provides criminal penalties for unlawful purchase/possession/ownership of a host and variety of firearms which have for much more than a century have been in *common usage* (key language in *Heller*) for not only legitimate sporting purposes, but more importantly for defense of self, family and property—cannot possibly withstand any form of judicial scrutiny upon Constitutional challenge. Federal courts have already roundly rejected purchase permits such as those set forth in this bill. As legislators, it is your sworn duty and obligation to follow the laws of the land, especially the U.S. Constitution. Enactment of this and similar anti-gun legislation is in clear, deliberate and direct contravention of that *sworn* duty/obligation and a *de facto* violation of your oaths of office.

Please put a stop to this senseless and UNCONSTITUTIONAL attack on the rights and wholesale persecution of law-abiding Colorado gun owners and vote against SB25-003 and similarly-associated legislation. Thank you.

Anthony Fabian
10168 Nickolas Ave.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

27687 Hopi Trail
Johnstown, CO 80534
10 March 2025

Representatives:

I want to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 25-003, limiting the purchase of semiautomatic firearms with detachable magazines. This bill is blatantly unconstitutional.

Three times within this century, the US Supreme Court has ruled on the meaning of the Second Amendment. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Court held that the Second Amendment applied to firearms “in common use.” The majority opinion stated:

We also recognize another important limitation on the right to keep and carry arms. *Miller* said, as we have explained, that the sorts of weapons protected were those “in common use at the time.” 307 U. S., at 179. We think that limitation is fairly supported by the historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of “dangerous and unusual weapons.” See 4 Blackstone 148–149 (1769); 3 B. Wilson, Works of the Honourable James Wilson 79 (1804); J. Dunlap, The New-York Justice 8 (1815); C. Humphreys, A Compendium of the Common Law in Force in Kentucky 482 (1822); 1 W. Russell, A Treatise on Crimes and Indictable Misdemeanors 271–272 (1831); H. Stephen, Summary of the Criminal Law 48 (1840); E. Lewis, An Abridgment of the Criminal Law of the United States 64 (1847); F. Wharton, A Treatise on the Criminal Law of the United States 726 (1852). See also *State v. Langford*, 10 N. C. 381, 383–384 (1824); *O’Neill v. State*, 16 Ala. 65, 67 (1849); *English v. State*, 35 Tex. 473, 476 (1871); *State v. Lanier*, 71 N. C. 288, 289 (1874).

It may be objected that if weapons that are most useful in military service—M-16 rifles and the like—may be banned, then the Second Amendment right is completely detached from the prefatory clause. But as we have said, the conception of the militia at the time of the Second Amendment’s ratification was the body of all citizens capable of military service, who would bring the sorts of lawful weapons that they possessed at home to militia duty. It may well be true today that a militia, to be as effective as militias in the 18th century, would require sophisticated arms that are highly unusual in society at large. Indeed, it may be true that no amount of small arms could be useful against modern-day bombers and tanks. But the fact that modern developments have limited the degree of fit between the prefatory clause and the protected right cannot change our interpretation of the right.

While this case dealt with a prohibition on handguns, the underlined text shows that the reasoning used applies to all “firearms in common use.” It is estimated that there are perhaps 44 million semiautomatic rifles with detachable magazines owned by 25 million

citizens. Certainly one can visit any gun store or sporting goods store selling guns, and find them for sale. This fact belies the notion that they are somehow “unusual.”

The majority opinion concludes:

In sum, we hold that the District’s ban on handgun possession in the home violates the Second Amendment, as does its prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense. Assuming that *Heller* is not disqualified from the exercise of Second Amendment rights, the District must permit him to register his handgun and must issue him a license to carry it in the home.

In *McDonald v. Chicago*, The Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment was incorporated by the Fourteenth Amendment, and so was enforceable against the states.

In *Heller*, we held that the Second Amendment protects the right to possess a handgun in the home for the purpose of self-defense. Unless considerations of *stare decisis* counsel otherwise, a provision of the Bill of Rights that protects a right that is fundamental from an American perspective applies equally to the Federal Government and the States. See *Duncan*, 391 U. S., at 149, and n. 14. We therefore hold that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment incorporates the Second Amendment right recognized in *Heller*. The judgment of the Court of Appeals is reversed, and the case is remanded for further proceedings.

In *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, the Court held that the Second Amendment applied outside the home. It also held that restrictions on its application were subject to “strict scrutiny:”

In sum, the Courts of Appeals’ second step is inconsistent with *Heller*’s historical approach and its rejection of means-end scrutiny. We reiterate that the standard for applying the Second Amendment is as follows: When the Second Amendment’s plain text covers an individual’s conduct, the Constitution presumptively that conduct. The government must then justify its regulation by demonstrating that it is consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation. Only then may a court conclude that the individual’s conduct falls outside the Second Amendment’s “unqualified command.

In conclusion:

The constitutional right to bear arms in public for self-defense is not “a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees.” *McDonald*, 561 U. S., at 780 (plurality opinion). We know of no other constitutional right that an individual may exercise only after demonstrating to government officers some special need. That is not how the

First Amendment works when it comes to unpopular speech or the free exercise of religion. It is not how the Sixth Amendment works when it comes to a defendant's right to confront the witnesses against him. And it is not how the Second Amendment works when it comes to public carry for self-defense.

Second Amendment rights can only be abridged if they are consistent with historical tradition. They can't be abridged because of some alleged claim of an "epidemic of gun violence" or to "make our streets safe."

In the 1977 Case *National Socialist Party of America v. Village of Skokie*, the Supreme Court held that the National Socialist (Nazi) Party had a First Amendment right to march in the streets of Skokie, IL. However abhorrent to American values the Nazis' views might be,

The First Amendment protects their rights to express them. In *Bruen*, the Court held that Second Amendment rights are no less protected.

Aside from the Constitutional issue, the proponents of SB 25-003 stand on dubious grounds. They would allow criminal gangs to roam the streets of Denver and elsewhere.

Is the lawful ownership of "assault weapons" a greater threat to public safety than these gangs? Are citizens to be deprived of their means of self-defense against these gangs? Does taking 12 hours of courses in "firearms safety" make a law-abiding citizen (who first must get law enforcement approval) any "safer?"

SB 25-003 is an outrage to the rights and sensibility of all Colorado citizens.

Gary Oplinger

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

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

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

Sincerely,

David Swaschnig

Dear sirs, Madame,

I am sure you are all aware of this Colorado statute regarding a government retention of comprehensive records of firearm purchases and the citizens involved,

CRS 29-11.7-102

29-11.7-102. Firearms database - prohibited (1) A local government, including a law enforcement agency, shall not maintain a list or other form of record or database of: (a) Persons who purchase or exchange firearms or who leave firearms for repair or sale on consignment; (b) Persons who transfer firearms, unless the persons are federally licensed firearms dealers; (c) The descriptions, including serial numbers, of firearms purchased, transferred, exchanged, or left for repair or sale on consignment.

If I'm not mistaken there is also a clause in the Brady act found on the ATF website which reads:

Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, 1993 Under the Brady Act, Congress amended the GCA and required FFLs to initiate a background check on any prospective unlicensed customer seeking to acquire a firearm from them through a sale, trade, or redemption of firearms exchanged for collateral (18 U.S.C. §922(t)). The FBI facilitates these background checks through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Subsection 103(i) of the Brady Act prohibits the establishment of a registration system of firearms, firearms owners, or firearms transactions or dispositions with any records generated by NICS, except for records on persons found ineligible to receive or possess firearms. It reads No department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States may—(1) require that any record or portion thereof generated by the system established under this section be recorded at or transferred to a facility owned, managed, or controlled by the United States or any State or political subdivision thereof; or (2) use the system established under this section to establish any system for the registration of firearms, firearm owners, or firearm transactions or dispositions, except with respect to persons, prohibited by section 922 (g) or (n) of title 18, United States Code or State law, from receiving a

If I read your bill correctly your establishing a so call card to be able to purchase firearms would be in clear violation of no databases on law abiding gun owners. If the FBI and CBI are required to destroy NICS records after 24 hours how is it that you can mandate the citizens of Colorado to maintain this card with any degree of anonymity with regards to state records.

This piece of legislation is also a blatant violation of the second amendment as it was written by our forefathers.

Thank you

Gordon D, Smart

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Gordon D, Smart

Testimony Against Colorado Senate Bill 25-003

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

March 10, 2025

Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

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

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

A Veteran's Perspective: This Bill Undermines Our Rights

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

A Caste System of Privilege

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

A Bureaucratic Nightmare and Economic Blow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No Safety Gains, Only Risks

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

A Blow to Rural Colorado and Vulnerable Communities

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

A Gun Registry in Disguise

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

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

A Call to Reason

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Haspil

Concerned Coloradan



James R. Potter
1111 Red Feather Road
Cotopaxi, Colorado 81223
864-316-1058

jamesraymondpotter@gmail.com

March 2, 2025

Colorado House Judiciary Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 E Colfax Ave, Room 112
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB25-003 – Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Dear Chair Mabrey, Vice Chair Carter, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care to express our strong support for SB25-003, which seeks to regulate semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices to enhance public safety in Colorado. As a state that has witnessed some of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history, we have a responsibility to take meaningful action to reduce the devastating impact of gun violence in our communities.

Colorado has suffered several tragic mass shootings, including:

- Columbine High School (1999) – 13 lives lost, forever changing the national conversation on gun violence.
- Aurora Theater Shooting (2012) – A gunman armed with an assault-style rifle and a 100-round magazine killed 12 people and injured 70 others.
- Boulder King Soopers Shooting (2021) – Ten innocent lives taken in a grocery store by a shooter using a semiautomatic firearm.
- Club Q Shooting in Colorado Springs (2022) – Five people murdered in a hate-driven attack at an LGBTQ+ nightclub.

In each of these horrific events, high-powered, rapid-fire weapons allowed perpetrators to cause maximum destruction in mere moments. The ability to fire dozens of rounds in seconds—due in part to semiautomatic firearms and rapid-fire devices like bump stocks and trigger activators—makes these attacks deadlier and more difficult to stop.

SB25-003 is a commonsense public safety measure that will help prevent future tragedies by prohibiting the sale and possession of rapid-fire trigger activators and strengthening regulations on semiautomatic firearms. Studies have shown that states with stronger firearm regulations experience fewer mass shootings and lower overall rates of gun violence. This bill does not infringe on the rights of responsible gun owners but rather ensures that deadly firearm modifications designed for war are not easily accessible to civilians.

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Colorado House Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Support of SB25-003
March 2, 2025

Gun violence is not just a criminal justice issue—it is a public health crisis. The widespread availability of rapid-fire weapons contributes to higher rates of firearm-related deaths and injuries, placing immense strain on emergency responders, hospitals, and mental health services.

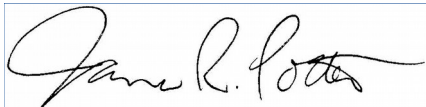
Research from leading public health organizations, including the American Public Health Association and the CDC, confirms that stronger firearm regulations lead to fewer suicides, homicides, and mass shooting incidents.

Moreover, hunters and sportsmen do not need automatic or rapid-fire weapons to hunt. Ethical hunting practices emphasize accuracy, skill, and respect for wildlife—not the ability to fire dozens of rounds per second. Traditional hunting rifles and shotguns are more than sufficient for legal and responsible hunting. The notion that rapid-fire modifications are necessary for hunting contradicts the values of conservation and responsible gun ownership. Back when I was a mere thirteen years old, I was given gun safety training by the National Rifle Association at a time when it had not yet transformed into a skill for the gun industry. My instructor would have been appalled at the thought of unsportsmanlike hunting with a rapid fire semiautomatic weapon.

Colorado has seen enough tragedy. We have an opportunity—and an obligation—to act before the next mass shooting devastates another community. SB25-003 is a necessary public health measure that will save lives. I urge you to support this bill and vote in favor of its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border. The signature is cursive and reads "James R. Potter".

James R. Potter
Board Member

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Good day, Committee Chair and members,

I am Marcella Schieffelin (pronounced Shef-lyn), a Mesa County, Colorado resident. I fully support Senate Bill 25-003.

This bill addresses a critical loophole in Colorado's gun laws that has persisted since the passage of House Bill 13-1224 in 2013, which was intended to prohibit the sale, transfer, or possession of magazines holding more than 15 rounds. Senate Bill 25-003 strengthens and clarifies these regulations to uphold their intent.

Why This Bill Matters:

Who wouldn't want to close a loophole that undermines public safety and the intent of the 2013 legislation? The Colorado Sun recently reported that opposition primarily comes from gun shop owners who claim they will face financial losses if this bill passes. ([Source](#))

While some gun shop owners may see revenue decline, this is a direct consequence of exploiting the loophole for profit. **No amount of revenue justifies leaving gaps in the law that enable harm. Public safety and saving lives must take precedence. Responsible business practices and public safety can coexist, and ethical gun shop owners focusing on legal, safe firearm ownership will continue to thrive.**

A Common-Sense Regulation:

Like regulations on vehicles, hazardous materials, and alcohol, firearm laws balance individual rights with the broader need for public safety. By closing this loophole, Colorado aligns firearm regulations with other responsible oversight measures and ensures the focus remains on protecting the public while upholding the integrity of the firearms industry.

The Impact of SB 25-003:

- **Reduce Circulation of Illegal Magazines:**
 - Limiting the transfer and possession of high-capacity magazines within state lines reduces cross-border trafficking and makes it harder for these magazines to be used in crimes.
- **Strengthen Law Enforcement Capabilities:**
 - More explicit guidelines and fewer ambiguities give law enforcement the tools to prevent violations and prosecute offenders effectively.
- **Decrease Supply of High-Capacity Magazines:**
 - Restricting possession and transfer will lead to a measurable decline in their presence and use in violent crimes.
- **Position Colorado as a Leader in Public Safety:**
 - Setting a regional precedent would make it harder for dangerous accessories to proliferate across state lines, potentially influencing neighboring states.

Passing SB 25-003 is a decisive step toward reducing gun violence and setting an example for other states. **Public safety is not just a goal—it is a shared responsibility.**

Please pass Senate Bill 25-003. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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 2nd 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

Honorable Members of the Colorado Senate and House,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding **Senate Bill 25-003** and its potential impact on law-abiding Coloradans. My name is **Dennis Grandinetti**, a resident of **Colorado Springs**, a **U.S. Army veteran**, and a committed advocate for the **constitutional rights of all citizens**. I am here today to express my **strong opposition** to SB 25-003, which I believe is a **dangerous overreach that infringes upon the Second Amendment, does little to enhance public safety, and places an undue burden on responsible gun owners**.

I. The Constitutional Argument

The **Second Amendment** of the United States Constitution 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.”* The Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld this fundamental right in cases such as **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)** and **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen (2022)**, affirming that individual citizens have the right to own and carry firearms, including those in common use.

SB 25-003 seeks to **ban the sale and transfer of commonly owned semi-automatic firearms** and restrict magazine capacity, which contradicts these rulings. The bill creates **arbitrary and excessive restrictions**, preventing law-abiding Coloradans from exercising their constitutional rights without providing any meaningful deterrent to criminal activity. The **Supreme Court has ruled that firearm laws must be in line with historical tradition**, and there is **no historical precedent** for the kind of restrictions SB 25-003 aims to impose.

II. The Reality of Criminal Behavior

The fundamental flaw in SB 25-003 is that it punishes **law-abiding gun owners** while doing nothing to curb **actual criminal activity**. According to **FBI Uniform Crime Report (2020)** statistics:

- **59% of firearm-related homicides are committed with handguns**, not rifles.
- **Less than 3% of gun crimes involve so-called 'assault rifles'**.
- Criminals overwhelmingly obtain firearms **illegally**, bypassing all regulations that impact law-abiding citizens.

A **2019 RAND Corporation study** concluded that there is **no conclusive evidence** that magazine capacity restrictions reduce mass shootings or overall violent crime. Similarly, a **2004 National Institute of Justice study** evaluating the effectiveness of the **1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban** found that the law **had no measurable impact on crime reduction** because criminals **continued to obtain weapons illegally** while law-abiding citizens bore the brunt of the restrictions.

III. The Flaws in the “High-Capacity Magazine” Argument

SB 25-003 seeks to further restrict **magazine capacity**, but the reality is that so-called “**high-capacity magazines**” are standard for many commonly owned firearms. This is not a loophole—it is the way modern firearms are designed for functionality, including self-defense.

The **Crime Prevention Research Center (2023)** found that **states with magazine bans experienced no statistically significant reductions in gun-related homicides** compared to those without restrictions. In fact, several studies show that **violent criminals are not deterred by magazine limits**, as they can simply carry multiple firearms or reload quickly. Meanwhile, law-abiding citizens—particularly those defending themselves in home invasions or against multiple attackers—are left at a disadvantage.

A **Harvard Law Review (2023) study** on defensive gun use found that “**in nearly 60% of home-defense incidents, more than 10 rounds were required to effectively neutralize a threat.**” SB 25-003 **limits the ability of citizens to defend themselves adequately** against violent criminals.

IV. The Disproportionate Impact on Responsible Gun Owners

SB 25-003 is not just **legally questionable and ineffective**—it also places a **severe burden on law-abiding Coloradans**, particularly those from lower-income and minority communities. A **2022 Pew Research Center study** found that firearm ownership for **self-defense is most common among women and minority communities**, many of whom live in areas where law enforcement response times are longer.

Restricting magazine capacity and access to commonly owned firearms disproportionately affects those who **rely on firearms for protection**. This bill makes **self-defense a privilege of the wealthy**, rather than a fundamental right available to all Americans.

V. The Failure of Prior Gun Bans

The history of **gun control laws** shows that bans on firearms and accessories **do not prevent crime**. The 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, which restricted both so-called “assault weapons” and high-capacity magazines, was found by **multiple studies**—including one by the National Institute of Justice—to have **no significant impact on crime rates**. When the ban expired in 2004, there was **no measurable increase in mass shootings**.

Furthermore, many of the **strictest gun control jurisdictions in the U.S., including Chicago and Washington, D.C., continue to suffer from high rates of violent crime**, proving that restrictive laws do not prevent criminals from obtaining and using firearms illegally.

VI. Effective Solutions That Actually Reduce Crime

If the goal is to truly **enhance public safety**, I urge lawmakers to focus on **solutions that target actual criminals rather than law-abiding citizens**:

1. **Stronger penalties for criminals caught with illegal firearms** – Repeat offenders make up the majority of gun crimes.
2. **Better mental health intervention and crisis prevention** – Many mass shootings are linked to untreated mental illness.
3. **Investment in law enforcement and community-based violence prevention programs** – Addressing root causes of violence rather than restricting rights.
4. **Improved enforcement of existing firearm laws** – Criminals routinely bypass gun laws, so enforcing existing statutes is far more effective than creating new ones.

VII. Conclusion: Defend the Rights of Law-Abiding Coloradans

SB 25-003 is an **ineffective, unconstitutional, and burdensome piece of legislation** that does not address the **true causes of gun violence**. It disproportionately impacts **law-abiding gun owners**, restricts the **ability of citizens to protect themselves**, and does nothing to **deter criminals** who already operate outside the law.

I urge this committee to **reject SB 25-003** and focus on policies that truly enhance public safety **without infringing upon the fundamental rights of Coloradans**. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dennis Grandinetti

Colorado Springs, CO

Supporting Evidence:

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SB25-003 – Semi-automatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices

Greetings distinguished members of the Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony for Bill SB25-003, Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices.

I am Tom Wilson and my wife and I live in Aurora. We have two grown sons, lovely daughters-in-law, and three adorable grandchildren. One of the primary reasons I'm offering testimony is because I don't want those kiddos to experience the gun violence that 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.

Semi-automatic military style weapons attached with high-capacity magazines are responsible for some of the deadliest acts of gun violence in our State. It is time to put some teeth into the 2013 law, prohibiting magazines capable of holding more than 15 rounds of ammunition.

Our lawmakers need to do more to strengthen state law to ACTUALLY keep those deadly accessories out of the hands of potential mass shooters and criminals.

Right now, those deadly high-capacity magazines are legally sold in six neighboring states. We have seen how deadly it is when a shooter has access to high-capacity magazines.

This must stop NOW! In order to prevent future tragedies and save lives, lawmakers must close this dangerous loophole, and ban high-powered, military style firearms that accept detachable high-capacity magazines.

Do it. Do it *now* for Haley, Beckett and Maya.

Thank you.



THE
CONSTITUTION
of the United States



We the People *of the United States*

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America

Article. I.

SECTION. 1

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION. 2

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.]* The actual Enumeration shall be made

within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

SECTION. 3

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, [chosen by the Legislature thereof,]* for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; [and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.]*

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

SECTION. 4

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be [on the first Monday in December,]* unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

SECTION. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

SECTION. 6

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

SECTION. 7

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively, If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

SECTION. 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards and other needful Buildings;
-And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

SECTION. 9

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

[No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.]*

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

SECTION. 10

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

SECTION. 1

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

[The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.]*

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.]*

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:- "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

SECTION. 2

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session

SECTION. 3

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States

SECTION. 4

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article. III.

SECTION. 1

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

SECTION. 2

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; - to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; - to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; - to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; - to Controversies between two or more States; - [between a State and Citizens of another State;]* between Citizens of different States, - between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, [and between a State, or the Citizens thereof;- and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.]*

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment; shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

SECTION. 3

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted

Article. IV.

SECTION. 1

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

SECTION. 2

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States
A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.]*

SECTION. 3

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

SECTION. 4

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

Done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

Go. Washington--Presidt:
and deputy from Virginia

NEW HAMPSHIRE

John Langdon
Nicholas Gilman

MASSACHUSETTS

Nathaniel Gorham
Rufus King

CONNECTICUT

Wm. Saml. Johnson
Roger Sherman

NEW YORK

Alexander Hamilton

NEW JERSEY

Wil: Livingston
David Brearley
Wm. Paterson
Jona: Dayton

PENNSYLVANIA

B Franklin
Thomas Mifflin
Robt Morris
Geo. Clymer
Thos. FitzSimons
Jared Ingersoll
James Wilson
Gouv Morris

DELAWARE

Geo: Read
Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson
Richard Bassett
Jaco: Broom

MARYLAND

James McHenry
Dan of St. Thos. Jenifer
Danl Carroll

VIRGINIA

John Blair-
James Madison Jr.

NORTH CAROLINA

Wm. Blount
Richd. Dobbs Spaight
Hu Williamson

SOUTH CAROLINA

J. Rutledge
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler

GEORGIA

William Few
Abr Baldwin

Attest William Jackson Secretary

In Convention Monday

September 17th, 1787.

Present

The States of

New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Mr. Hamilton from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Resolved,

That the preceding Constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, and that it is the Opinion of this Convention, that it should afterwards be submitted to a Convention of Delegates, chosen in each State by the People thereof, under the Recommendation of its Legislature, for their Assent and Ratification; and that each Convention assenting to, and ratifying the Same, should give Notice thereof to the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Convention, that as soon as the Conventions of nine States shall have ratified this Constitution, the United States in Congress assembled should fix a Day on which Electors should be appointed by the States which shall have ratified the same, and a Day on which the Electors should assemble to vote for the President, and the Time and Place for commencing Proceedings under this Constitution

That after such Publication the Electors should be appointed, and the Senators and Representatives elected: That the Electors should meet on the Day fixed for the Election of the President, and should transmit their Votes certified, signed, sealed and directed, as the Constitution requires, to the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled, that the Senators and Representatives should convene at the Time and Place assigned; that the Senators should appoint a President of the Senate, for the sole Purpose of receiving, opening and counting the Votes for President; and, that after he shall be chosen, the Congress, together with the President, should, without Delay, proceed to execute this Constitution

By the unanimous Order of the Convention

Go. Washington-President:

W. JACKSON Secretary.

* Language in brackets has been changed by amendment.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AS RATIFIED BY THE STATES

Preamble to the Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States
begun and held at the City of New-York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March,

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

(Note: The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights.")

Amendment I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II.

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.

Amendment III.

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V.

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.

Amendment VI.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII.

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX.

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

AMENDMENTS 11-27

Amendment XI.

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

(Note: A portion of Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution was modified by the 11th Amendment.)

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment XII.

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

(Note: A portion of Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution was changed by the 12th Amendment.)

The Electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate;-the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;-The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President.-]* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

*Superseded by Section 3 of the 20th Amendment.

Amendment XIII.

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

(Note: A portion of Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution was changed by the 13th Amendment.)

SECTION 1

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION 2

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XIV.

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

(Note: Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution was modified by Section 2 of the 14th Amendment.)

SECTION 1

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SECTION 2

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, [being twenty-one years of age,]* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

SECTION 3

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

SECTION 4

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

SECTION 5

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

*Changed by Section 1 of the 26th Amendment.

Amendment XV.

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

SECTION 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

SECTION 2

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVI.

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

(Note: Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution was modified by the 16^b Amendment.)

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment XVII.

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

(Note: Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution was modified by the 17th Amendment.)

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

Amendment XVIII.

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by the 21st Amendment, December 5, 1933.

SECTION 1

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

SECTION 2

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

SECTION 3

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XIX.

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XX.

Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

(Note: Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution was modified by Section 2 of this Amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th Amendment was superseded by Section 3.)

SECTION 1

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

SECTION 2

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

SECTION 3

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

SECTION 4

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

SECTION 5

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

SECTION 6

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Amendment XXI.

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

SECTION 1

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

SECTION 3

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXII.

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

SECTION 1

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

SECTION 2

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXIII.

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

SECTION 1

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

SECTION 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXIV.

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

SECTION 1

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

SECTION 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXV.

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.
(*Note: Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution was modified by the 25th Amendment.*)

SECTION 1

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

SECTION 2

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

SECTION 3

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

SECTION 4

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

Amendment XXVI.

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

(*Note: Amendment 14, Section 2 of the Constitution was modified by Section 1 of the 26th Amendment.*)

SECTION 1

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

SECTION 2

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXVII.

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

The NCC is an independent, non-partisan, nonprofit organization that was established in 1988 under the Constitution Heritage Act. The Center's mission is to increase awareness and understanding of the Constitution, the Constitution's history and its relevance to people's daily lives.



National Constitution Center
525 Arch Street
Independence Mall
Philadelphia, PA 19106

(215) 409-6600

www.constitutioncenter.org

March 11, 2025

TO: House Judiciary Committee

SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB25-003, Prohibited Activity Involving Semiautomatic Firearms

FROM: Former State Representative Terri Carver (2014-2022)

I urge the House Judiciary Committee to vote no on SB25-003, which is an unconstitutional restriction on our individual 2nd Amendment rights to keep and bear arms. This bill as introduced started its 2025 legislative journey as a ban on the vast majority of common firearms used for self defense and hunting. SB25-003 as introduced was very similar to prior “assault weapons ban” bills that have failed to pass in the Colorado General Assembly. These provisions are clearly unconstitutional under the current 2nd Amendment jurisprudence under the Bruen Supreme Court case.

But in the Senate, a new approach was added to this horrific bill—now citizens can be “exempted” from the gun ban but only at a cost. Citizens can exercise their constitutional rights only if they expend significant time and money for gun safety training requirements clearly designed to materially burden and discourage gun ownership. This is not a pro-safety gun bill—it is a “let’s make it too hard and too expensive to own a gun” bill. This bill hurts low income Americans the hardest. A citizen’s fundamental right under the Constitution cannot be predicated upon their ability to pay, or the ability to take time off from work to attend a multi-day intensive gun safety course.

Once again, the Colorado Democratic majority talk about criminal gun violence but their actions in SB25-003 levy excessive burdens and criminal punishment on law-abiding citizens exercising their constitutional rights. SB25-003 is an anti-gun bill, not an anti-gun violence bill. That is because owning a gun doesn’t tell you anything about whether the gun owner is going to commit “gun violence.” In fact, the vast majority of gun owners are law-abiding, and would only use their guns in self defense or defense of others. This bill is intent on burdening gun owners who have “common arms” under Bruen, and putting excessive burdens on gun ownership which also violates Bruen. It is an anti-Second Amendment gun bill, and must be defeated—either during the legislative process or in the courts.

I urge a no vote on SB25-003.