

My name is Mary Parker. I live in Littleton, CO. I am a small business owner and gun owner, speaking in opposition to HB1023.

There are some bills that are opposed because of concerns that they might lead to a "slippery slope", or have a snowball effect of ever expanding rights and privileges in the future. This bill can best be described as doing the opposite. Instead of narrowly defining the right of business owners and their employees to use deadly force in defense of themselves and their place of business, it gives "any occupant of a dwelling" the right to use "any degree of physical force, including deadly physical force" against another person who "might use any physical force, no matter how slight". And if this isn't bad enough, the bill further states that the occupant using deadly physical force is immune from criminal prosecution and is "immune from any civil liability for injuries or death resulting from the use of such force". HB1023 seems to have overshot the mark by quite a bit here.

Rights come with responsibilities. This bill removes any and all responsibility and liability for the use of deadly force. While the members of this committee are evaluating HB1023, I urge you to look at it not only from the perspective of the person defending their place of business. Think of innocent bystanders who might inadvertently be injured or killed, because this bill takes away their rights to restitution and justice.