



Office of the City Council

March 3, 2025

To the sponsors of HB25-1206, Extreme Indifference Offenses Not Causing Death:

As a Councilor of the City of Pueblo, I am writing to express my opposition to HB25-1206, Extreme Indifference Offences Not Causing Death. If this bill is passed, I believe it will have a severe and negative impact on the safety of our community.

Pueblo has one of the highest violent crime rates in the state of Colorado. HB25-1206 will significantly reduce penalties for attempted murder under the extreme indifference statute, meaning offenders could face minimal consequences for acts of extreme recklessness. This bill ignores the intent of the crime and instead scales the severity of the penalty based on the level of injury caused, rather than focusing on the dangerousness of the act itself.

I am concerned this bill is misguided and lowers the penalties for extreme indifference to attempted murder and signals leniency toward violent crime.

I urge you to vote against this bill to ensure our community can continue holding violent criminals accountable for their actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Flores", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis Flores

(719) 406-9852

Pueblo City Council, At Large



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "G" and a small "R".

Roger Gomez
(719) 750-7424

Pueblo City Council, District 4



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina Maestri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Regina Maestri
(719) 504-8888
Pueblo City Council, District 1



Office of the City Council

March 3, 2025

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Martinez", written over a white background.

Sarah Martinez
(719) 568-8033
Pueblo City Council, District 3

Please keep
our families
safe by helping
to prevent drive-
by shootings!



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Aliff", written over a white background.

Mark Aliff

(719) 252-2451

Pueblo City Council, At Large



Office of the City Council

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Boston". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.

Brett Boston
(719) 750-7753
Pueblo City Council, At Large



Office of the City Council

March 3, 2025

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Latino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "L".

Joe Latino
(719) 369-0514

Pueblo City Council, District 2

House Judiciary

03/19/2025 02:30 PM

HB25-1206 Extreme Indifference Offenses Not Causing Death

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Mark Kaiser Against himself	No on HB25-1206 Emotional placebos like lessening penalties for criminal behavior might soothe some peoples tantrums, but it doesn't help to make more people feel 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.

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



House Judiciary Committee Hearing Testimony
Mayor Mitch LaKind, Town of Monument
Date: March 19, 2025

Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Mitch LaKind, and I proudly serve as the Mayor of the Town of Monument. I am submitting this written testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 25-1206, a deeply troubling piece of legislation that weakens penalties for attempted first-degree murder under circumstances of extreme indifference to human life.

As Mayor, one of my primary responsibilities is ensuring the safety of the people I serve. That means supporting our Monument Police Department, all law enforcement officers across Colorado, and our District Attorney in their efforts to keep violent criminals off our streets. This bill directly undermines their ability to do so by reducing the consequences for those who recklessly endanger innocent lives. Law enforcement and prosecutors need every tool available to protect our communities—House Bill 25-1206 takes those tools away.

This legislation does not exist in a vacuum. It is part of a larger and deeply concerning trend in this state—one that seeks to strip law-abiding citizens of their right to defend themselves while simultaneously weakening criminal penalties. While this body continues to push restrictive gun control laws that limit Coloradans' ability to protect themselves and their families, it is also making it easier for violent criminals to escape real justice. I must ask—why does this body continue to bring bills for consideration that are designed to make Coloradans defenseless victims?

Under current law, acts of extreme indifference to human life—such as firing into a crowd or engaging in reckless violence—carry appropriately severe penalties. House Bill 25-1206 would reduce these consequences, downgrading offenses that should be treated as serious felonies. This is unacceptable. Public safety must be our top priority, and that starts with ensuring law enforcement officers and prosecutors have the tools necessary to protect innocent lives.

I urge this committee to reject House Bill 25-1206. If Colorado continues down a path of disarming its citizens while simultaneously weakening criminal penalties, we will create an environment where criminals thrive, and law-abiding Coloradans pay the price. Our laws should prioritize the rights and safety of victims—not make life easier for offenders.

Again, I ask: Why does this body continue to introduce policies that make it harder for Coloradans to defend themselves while making it easier for criminals to walk free? The people of Monument, and all of Colorado, deserve answers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. LaKind".

Mayor Mitch LaKind
Town of Monument

Javier Mabrey, Chair
Michael Carter, Vice Chair
House Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2025

RE: Opposed to HB25-1206, Extreme Indifference Offenses Not Causing Death

I am Heather Graham, the Mayor of the City of Pueblo, and I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to HB25-1206, "Extreme Indifference Offenses Not Causing Death".

HB25-1206 is just one more in a series of legislation that targets and weakens our criminal justice system. It is no secret that my community, Pueblo, experiences a high violent crime rate, perhaps the highest in the state. In 2024, our community of 111,000 citizens experienced 164 drive-by shootings and 107 individuals who were shot. This bill will significantly reduce penalties for attempted murder under the extreme indifference statute, meaning offenders could face minimal consequences for acts of extreme recklessness. Under the new classifications presented under HB25-1206, a person convicted of attempting to indiscriminately kill multiple people could receive only probation.

HB25-1206 ignores the intent of the crime and instead scales the severity of the penalty based on the level of injury cause, rather than focusing on the dangerousness of the act itself. A shooter who indiscriminately fires into a crowd or an occupied residence but happens to miss could receive a drastically lower sentence, despite the clear intent to harm. In other words, they are rewarded for missing their intended victims, despite their intent being otherwise. The citizens in Pueblo demand accountability and consequences for criminals, especially those who indiscriminately shoot up our community and place our citizens, their children, and others in danger through these heinous acts.

HB25-1206 will also undermine justice for mass shooting victims. Mass shooters often face multiple attempted murder charges under this statute, ensuring accountability for their indiscriminate violence. Reducing these penalties would minimize consequences for mass shooting suspects in instances like the Aurora Theater and Boulder King Soopers tragedies and God forbid other that happen in the future.

HB25-1206 also encourages legal loopholes for defense attorneys. There has long been a legal battle over defining "extreme indifference," and this bill effectively weakens the prosecution's ability to hold offenders accountable under this charge.

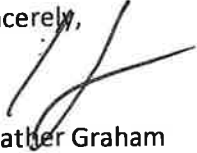
Furthermore, it will provide drastically lower sentences for attempted murder. Currently, attempted murder-extreme indifference is a class 2 felony, carrying 8 to 24 years in prison. Under this bill, it could drop as low as a class 5 felony, punishable by just 1 to 3 years, making probation a likely outcome.

HB25-1206 is misguided and lowers the penalties for extreme indifference to attempted murder and signals leniency toward violent crime. Here in Pueblo, our citizens demand these criminals be held accountable. Combined with other legislation, this bill, like many others passed by in the past four years, will make Colorado less safe and will not help Governor Polis reach his goal of making Colorado one of the top 10 safest states in the nation. It sends the message to our criminals that we care more about them than we do the victims and our communities. It is for these reasons that we are opposed to HB25-1206.

Again, this legislation undermines the City's ability clean up the ongoing crime we face in my community. One of the biggest calls we get to my office is people driving around town shooting up the community. What I don't understand is this very same group of legislations wants to put more harsh regulations on gun owners, yet we don't want to keep laws in place to protect the innocent people who are being shot at? Makes zero sense to me. Denver and northern Colorado communities may be okay with a lack of consequences for criminals, but I don't believe those of us in Southern and rural Colorado are okay with it and the direction our communities are headed if we follow their lead yet again.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Graham', written over a faint horizontal line.

Heather Graham
Mayor
City of Pueblo