



March 2024

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: SB24-131-- Concerning Prohibiting Carrying a Firearm in Sensitive Spaces

Dear Committee Members:

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

AAUW has declared that gun violence is a public health crisis, with women and girls being especially victimized by violence involving firearms. Gun safety is a complex issue, one which we need to deal with on many different fronts. Colorado already prohibits firearms in schools, public transportation and government buildings. Our safety will be further enhanced by prohibiting firearms in parks, playgrounds and rec centers—places where innocent girls and boys are likely to gather.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB 131 and requests your AYE vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming a law.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Su Ryden
AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave. • Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797
suryden25@gmail.com

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

Prepared Written Testimony of Brandon M. Farrand
Founder
2nd to None, LLC.
Submitted March 19, 2024

Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee
March 20, 2024 @ 1:30pm

Old Supreme Court
Judiciary Hearing

Senate Bill 24-131 – “Prohibit Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Places”

Chairperson Gonzalez, Vice Chair Roberts, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of 2nd to None, LLC., which strongly opposes Senate Bill 24-131 – “Prohibit Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Places” and the like, and requesting that all members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Colorado General Assembly do the same.

Many would think that after hearing over 12 hours of witness testimony and a ratio of 6-1 in opposition to HB23-1230 last year, and the countless pending lawsuits, some of the members of the Colorado General Assembly would get the hint that the people of Colorado DO NOT WANT this type of legislation, yet here we are again. Are we surprised? Not at all. Why stop at attempting to strip away the Right of the People to Free And Fair Elections, continue to make good on the threat to Colorado citizens and attempt yet again to strip away the to Keep and Bear Arms. After all, “It’s the guns. It’s the guns. It’s the guns!” right? Sure.

Most people aren’t as dumb as some of the ~~California, New York, Illinois, Oregon, New Mexico, Washington D.C.~~ COLORADO General Assembly assume. The true citizens of this once beautiful and great state can see exactly what the true intentions are of legislators that bring bills like SB24-131, to the table year after year. It has nothing to do with public safety, rather an agenda to take advantage of the majority and to penalize law abiding citizen’s one piece at a time till “the guns” are not obtainable by the law abiding anymore. That is called Tyranny. It doesn’t matter if it’s “certain areas”, as some members of the Colorado Senate claim, or any area. At the end of the day, they, and we, are protected by the Colorado Constitution and the U.S. Constitution, “...The Right of the People to Keep and Bear Arms Shall Not Be Infringed.” We know not everyone like the anti-gun groups and certain members of the Colorado General Assembly that listen to them can understand that, or refuse to accept it, and it’s apparent. The General Assembly may have the numbers, and ignorance or pretend to be intelligent and come up with misconstrued interpretations of law and history to pass this unconstitutional infringement. If it does, celebrate quickly because it is not going to last long once the smoke clears and decisions from lawsuits continue to be released in the Constitution’s favor. Just like the failed attempt to take certain candidates off the ballot so the People cannot exercise THEIR Right and vote for the candidate of THEIR choice. That is also called Tyranny. At the end of the day, we are a Constitutional Republic.

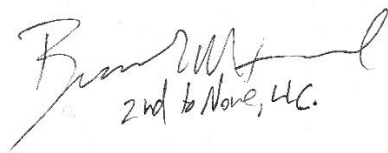
Instead, here we are yet again; and 2nd to None continues to urge the halting of this absurd and ultimately ineffective path that the Colorado General Assembly is STILL continuing to travel down. Yet again, instead of coming up with effective solutions that would actually make positive impact, such as strengthening school security (metal detectors, armed and trained personnel or law enforcement, creating an impenetrable presence, getting rid of gun free zones and sensitive places), addressing mental health and figuring out why people are resorting to violence, holding individuals accountable for their misconduct and crimes; rather the Colorado General Assembly and certain localities of Colorado are once again under the false pretense that “It’s the Guns. It’s the Guns. It’s the Guns!” STILL intentionally and with no regard, violating their oaths of office by wasting time, money and lives going after inanimate objects and Constitutionally Protected Rights of which have been deemed time and time again just that. STILL intentionally and with no regard, violating their oaths of office by leaving law abiding citizens defenseless and hindering their ability to exercise their Natural-Born, God-Given Right until Our Rights are reinforced by the courts, and ultimately striking down useless legislative efforts due to nonsensical knee-jerk reactions and in the interim opening the door for more crime and violence, and purposely restricting everyone’s Right to self-defense to “feel safer”. Want to actually be safe? Beside the numerous suggestions above, always have some kind protection on your person... like a gun. It’s not living in fear, it’s called being protected and prepared. Especially with the millions of illegal immigrants and possible terrorists that are being welcomed in by the state of Colorado and country wide, the need for self-defense is needed now more than ever!

In summation, Senate Bill 24-131 overreaches our Naturally Born and God-Given Constitutional Rights. **Period.** This is supported by countless judicial decisions released by the U.S. Supreme Court (NYSRPA v. Bruen, District of Columbia v. Heller), by State Courts all over the country (Carralero v. Bonta, Anotnyuk v. Bruen), and not to mention the numerous local lawsuits filed against Governor Jared Polis, Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Louisville, and Town of Superior that affirm such legislation, the same type of legislation like SB24-131, are in violation of our individual inalienable Rights.

2nd to None and the people of Colorado continue to ask you to please make an actual difference and focus efforts Constitutionally on the actual root of the problem, the criminals responsible for these tragedies; and the psychological, cultural, societal reasoning’s that lead up to their deplorable actions. Not toward Constitutionally protected law abiding citizens and inanimate objects that we all have the Right to exercise with; that includes all spaces not just “certain ones”. Having a world where everyone gets along no matter of race, creed, religion, gender, color, etc. is a desire that most people have on this Earth... then there is reality. Unfortunately there are people out there that are just evil and Americans have the Right and means to protect themselves from such evil. It’s Our Right. Don’t Be A Victim. STOP attempting to have the people of Colorado become one that hasn’t been already!

Thank you,

Brandon M. Farrand
Founder of 2nd to None, LLC.



Brandon M. Farrand
2nd to None, LLC.



Via Electronic Mail

Monday, February 12, 2023

Governor Polis

governorpolis@state.co.us

Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie

julie.mccluskie.house@coleg.gov

President of the Senate Stephen Fenberg

stephen.fenberg.senate@coleg.gov

House Judiciary Committee Chair Mike Weissman

mike.weissman.house@coleg.gov

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Julie Gonzales

julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov

CC: Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees

Re: Proposed Legislation's Unconstitutional Violation of Second Amendment Rights

Dear Governor Polis, Madam Speaker, Mr. President and Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees,

On behalf of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, I am writing to issue a formal demand for the immediate cease and desist of further proceedings concerning SB24-131. If enacted, this bill imposes egregious restrictions on the lawful keeping and bearing of firearms, thus violating the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in Colorado.

SB24-131, as currently proposed, seeks to prohibit the carrying or possession of firearms in various public locations and events, including parks, recreational facilities, community centers, public gatherings, hospitals, places of worship, sporting events, amusement parks, and educational institutions. Additionally, it imposes severe penalties for violations thereof, including fines and potential criminal charges.

We vehemently oppose SB24-131 on the grounds that it flagrantly violates the fundamental right to keep and bear arms as enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article II, § 13 of the Colorado Constitution.

Furthermore, this proposed legislation runs counter to recent Supreme Court precedents, including *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, which affirm the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense and personal security inside **AND** outside of the home.

It is imperative to recognize that the provisions outlined in SB24-131 directly threaten the liberties and safety of law-abiding citizens. By unlawfully restricting the exercise of Second Amendment rights, this bill undermines the principles of freedom and individual sovereignty upon which our nation was founded.

Furthermore, we draw attention to the ongoing legal challenges against similar legislation in other jurisdictions, indicating the unconstitutionality of blanket firearm bans in public spaces. The recent Preliminary Injunction issued by Judge Cormac Carney in *May v. Bonta* underscores the judiciary's stance against such overreaching measures.

Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to Judge Carney's scathing description of California's "sensitive spaces" law. In it, he describes the law as "*repugnant to the Second Amendment and openly defiant of the Supreme Court.*"

In light of these legal precedents, we demand that all efforts to advance SB24-131 cease and desist and be immediately terminated. Failure to comply with this demand will compel Rocky Mountain Gun Owners to pursue all available legal remedies to protect the constitutional rights of RMGO Members and peaceable Colorado citizens.

We anticipate your prompt acknowledgment of this cease and desist demand and expect confirmation of compliance within ten business days from the receipt of this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Taylor D. Rhodes
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Gun Owners

Members of the Senate,

As a student of the music program and senior at UCCS, I have been undeniably negatively affected by the violent murder of my classmate, Samuel Knopp, that occurred on our campus on February 16. However, this bill will not prevent occurrences like it from happening again. In fact, I believe the passing of this bill will make my campus less safe. Below are several reasons why.

Gun control laws have already failed us. The only legal way to have a firearm on UCCS campus is to have a concealed carry permit. A concealed carry permit requires training in gun safety, accuracy, and Colorado gun law; this means a concealed carry license holder is likely a responsible gun owner. Students who live on campus must register their weapon and permit with UCCS police and receive signed permission from their roommates to have the weapon in their room. However, none of these rules were followed by the murderer of Sam Knopp and Celie Montgomery. The rules did not work.

This bill only serves to disarm law-abiding citizens because criminals break the law. A person who has decided that they are going to kill people with a gun will not be stopped by a law that says there are no guns allowed in that place. Thus, only law-abiding citizens would be unarmed if a life-threatening situation were to occur. Additionally, any time it takes the police to arrive is time unarmed civilians have to survive against an attacker with a firearm. Sadly, police will never be faster than a gun on your hip.

The lobbyist behind this bill specifically invited UCCS students and faculty because we are grieving and afraid right now. This is manipulation of a vulnerable group to serve an agenda. Our friend, classmate, and colleague Sam is not a chess piece in their game against guns. Using his death to try to push any kind of agenda is disgusting and morally deplorable.

I hope you take these ideas into account as you deliberate and take in other testimonies. Please, don't make me and my university defenseless against violent criminals.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Hope Tuin



GOLDEN VIEW CLASSICAL ACADEMY

March 8, 2024

To Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

For eight years now, Golden View Classical Academy has interviewed, trained, tested, and retrained armed staff on our campus. Our commitment to the safety and security of our school community is demonstrated every day when our security officers come to work ready to perform their duties on campus, including preventing harm to our students with the best tools at their disposal. It is not a stretch to say that our school security officers are among the best trained non-law enforcement personnel currently operating in Colorado schools.

SB24-131 immediately endangers our school community by preventing our dedicated and well-trained security officers from continuing to protect us as they have done for years, without incident, and with the full support of our parent community. Far from opposing training, we welcome it, and under the current legislation we are able to operate a volunteer program that has established our school as a community with a robust and demonstrable commitment to the safety of our students and staff.

The proposed legislation runs counter to this reality. Immediately upon passage of this bill, we would lose our ability to protect our students, and we could not conceivably increase our capacity in a time frame that is acceptable to our families, many of whom send their children to us with the expectation of care and protection of the highest degree. By denying the school the authority to determine who is best suited to serve as a security officer, this proposed legislation would prevent our most committed personnel, our teachers, from fulfilling the role - which they have chosen themselves with full awareness of the stakes and demand.

Armed staff on our premises are an integral part of our security posture. Our ability to operate an armed staff gives us the capability to deter aggression against our students, staff, and community, which is the optimal reality we are working to effect - no one wants to prevent violence on our campus more than we do, and deterrence is key to achieving that goal. We live with the reality of the potential for violence against children on our campus every day of the school year, and every day of operation on our campus we are working to prevent it; such vigilance is key to building our security posture and existing legislation wisely allows us to establish deterrence. The proposed legislation removes deterrence upon passage and immediately makes us unsafe. To be clear, this means that students aged 5-18 will no longer have the protection we have spent years purposefully and successfully establishing for them.

At Golden View Classical Academy we offer the best security we can provide by deterring violent acts through the presence of our armed security officers. Those officers are thoroughly interviewed, trained, and retrained and exceed both current and proposed legislative requirements - they are dedicated and professional in their duties. Without incident, we have operated our armed staff for years and parents in our community seek out our school specifically because of our robust security posture.

We have a lockdown drill scheduled next week, in which our coordinated and swift response will be seamlessly incorporated to an overall framework for school safety. Some of our students will hide in classrooms and we will explain to them that we have staff that they know who are ready and willing to protect them should a school shooter or other dangerous person intend to harm them. We will explain to them, as they ask us questions about how fast we are, that we can respond to a threat in the building in less than a minute. They will take that with them, know they are safe, and then continue their day learning. The proposed legislation introduces for them anxiety and worry that they don't need and which legislation should never create.

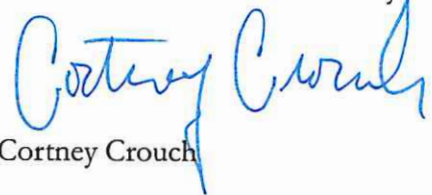
In summary, SB24-131 will immediately endanger the children we currently protect. They remove our most capable asset, the people who are ready and willing to stand between violence and children. This can be fixed easily, and our children can remain protected, if *any* staff that a school chooses and trains is allowed to serve as a security officer, without limitation.

Kind regards,



Zachary Dombrowski

Head of Security and History Teacher
Golden View Classical Academy



Cortney Crouch

Safety Team Lead and Chief Financial Officer
Golden View Classical Academy



Robert Garrow

Principal and Government Teacher
Golden View Classical Academy

SB24-131 Response - Sensitive Spaces

I am Bradley Abell and I urge you to oppose SB24-131. Firearm ownership has skyrocketed in the liberal arena the past few years and we all want to protect our rights to self-defense. Our public spaces have less and less police presence and have seen an increase in mental health issues, drug use, and crime as the years go on. Colorado residents are applying for and receiving their Concealed Handgun Permit (CHP) at ever increasing rates. Gun ownership and carrying firearms for self-defense is not the problem; it is part of the solution. Studies have consistently shown that armed citizens play a crucial role in saving lives during violent encounters. The mere presence of an armed individual is a strong deterrence and prevents or stops violent attacks from occurring in the first place without firing a shot. Many “Gun Free” zones are targeted by criminals who do not obey, therefore creating an “awful Symmetry” where the same factors that make a place dangerous and warrant gun prohibition are the same reasons people want to carry a gun for their own protection.

Law-abiding gun owners, including the more than 19,000 U.S. Concealed Carry Association members in Colorado, understand that carrying in public is a large responsibility and should not be undertaken lightly. CHP holders undergo thorough background checks, fingerprints, and training to legally carry. CHP holders undergo a similar scrutiny as police officers. Coloradans should have trust in and prefer to be in places where there are dozens of vetted, educated, trained and responsible gun owners around, not zero. The number of crimes committed by Concealed Carry Permit Holder are almost zero and most of the offenses are trivial in nature (Ref Gun Control Myths by Dr. John R Lott). Legal CHP holders are not the issue and do not pose a threat to the public in sensitive spaces. Criminals do.

Instead of enacting laws that restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens, we should focus on stronger enforcement of existing laws, increased access to firearms training and education and more resources for mental health. Banning firearms in “sensitive spaces” for cleared, well trained, and educated CHP holders will not only curb important liberties, but it will ultimately jeopardize public safety of all Coloradans and demographics, and Colorado lawmakers should give full consideration of SB24-131’s likely consequences.

It’s unclear whether SB24-131 passes constitutional muster, particularly considering the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, which affirmed the right of law-abiding citizens to carry firearms in public. The natural-born right to self-defense, particularly through the bearing of arms, should not be contingent upon one’s physical location or the perception of a given place’s sensitivity. This bill also does not follow the historical scrutiny of similar restrictions of “Sensitive Spaces.”

Furthermore, any laws that apply to regular citizens and not law enforcement continue to send the message of law enforcement being a separate class of citizens. At a time when public faith in law enforcement is near an all-time low, this is about the worst thing the government can do. There is no more sure way to undermine respect for the rule of law than to say that the rules don't apply to those who are supposed to enforce them.

For those reasons above, I urge you to oppose SB24-131. A CHP is a great equalizer in self-protection for all people, it is the strongest deterrence in violent attacks, and a vast majority CHP holders are NOT criminals nor have committed crimes with a CHP and should not be treated as such for exercising their rights.

Sincerely,

Bradley Abell and fellow Coloradans

SB24-131 Response - Sensitive Spaces

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Sincerely,

Bradley Abell and fellow Coloradans

My name is Richard Kunckel. I am an attorney licensed to practice law here in Colorado as well as Wyoming. I am also an NRA certified pistol instructor, a Krav Maga Pistol Instructor, and a member of the security team at Grace Church of Arvada.

I come before this committee today to voice my opposition to SB 24-131, and urge you all to vote against the bill.

~~This bill~~ This bill will do nothing to protect the People of the State of Colorado or keep our "Sensitive Places" free from violence. In fact, it will do just the opposite because it will restrict people like myself from carrying while at church.

I've read this proposed bill, and there are a litany of ~~problems~~ of unconstitutional infringements this bill will impose on Coloradans 2A rights. I understand my time to testify is limited, so rather than address each unconstitutional aspect of this bill, I will ~~not~~ focus on the ~~limitation~~ restriction of carrying firearms in places of worship as well as Section 1a of the Bill's legislative declaration.

First, the Legislative Declaration ~~does~~ that the US Supreme Court has held that states may, consistent w/ the 2A regulate carrying firearms in sensitive places is an incorrect statement of the law. The Bruen Decision made it clear that the 2A & 14th protect an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home. 597 U.S. 1 (2022). The Bruen Court further went on to state that in order for a state's regulation restricting the

rights enshrined in the 2A, the state must show an historical ~~analog~~ analog which relates back to the nation's founding.

It is a widely accepted notion of American constitutional law that ~~in the case Danforth v. Minnesota, the U.S. Supreme Court~~ ~~the Danforth v. Minnesota case stands for the principle that~~ the Federal Constitution sets a floor for personal liberties, and that states cannot go ~~be~~ below that floor in restricting ~~the~~ personal liberties. SB 24-131 puts the personal liberty of self defense not only in the basement, but casts it to the cellar.

~~the added prohibiting~~ This leads me to the restriction of carrying at places of worship. The language of the bill prohibiting this practice is unconstitutional and will not achieve the safety aspects it purports. I know the Bill's language provides an exemption to places of worship where express consent is given, but this is misplaced. This requirement places liability with the place of worship that virtually no legal counsel would advise the place of worship undertake, thereby making the exception of no consequence.

It is no surprise that places of worship have come under attack by bad people with guns, but what this committee cannot refute is that a good guy with a gun was able to stop those bad actors. ~~The~~ The trans shooter at Joel Olsten's church was stopped by a good guy with a gun. The same is true for the shooter at the West Freeway Church of Christ. In that situation, a volunteer security guard stopped that threat with a headshot to the perpetrator at 45 feet.

SB 24-131 will remove these ^{armed} people from being able to protect their congregation members. The result ~~of~~ of disarming people in places of worship will undoubtedly be the unnecessary loss of life. ~~These deaths can be~~

I'll close with this, remember the Oath you took when you were sworn into office. An oath to support the US Constitution and the Colorado Constitution. Uphold your oath and vote ~~no~~ against SB24-131. Thank you.

END OF STATEMENT

RKWCKEL@ICLOUD.COM PH: 307-258-4606

Hawaii - It's Supreme Court just stated the U.S. Constitution + BOR is no longer applicable today

CHP + Threatening Charges - Aggressive DA's overcharging CHP's where those folks did not need to use firearm b/c bad guy found out that was wrong person to mess w/.

Penalty is 250 fine 1st offense }
1,000 fine 2nd offense } Penalty is a JOKE
Unclassified misdemeanor }

March 6, 2024

Esteemed members of the Colorado State Legislature,

My name is Robert Norton, and I have had the pleasure of serving as a middle school teacher in Colorado for the past thirteen years. The safety of my students is my number one priority; however, Senate Bill 24-131 and House Bill 24-1310 put my life and the lives of my students in greater peril.

The legislation I referenced threatens to undo all of the progress that schools in Colorado have made over the past two decades. And make no mistake, the passage of these bills would make my school and other Colorado campuses significantly less safe. The state that had the Columbine, Arapahoe High School, and STEM School shootings should be the safest in the nation.

You are keenly aware that our schools have become “soft” targets for violence in our society. The likelihood that I will encounter an active shooter in my school continues to be a daily reality for me. Unfortunately, the proposed legislation prevents me and other like-minded teachers from doing all that we can to save lives. During a lockdown, I am still expected to guard against an active shooter by placing my body between bullets and a closed classroom door to protect my students. In this horrific instance, I am the first responder; however, the proposed legislation would undermine my ability to use my qualifications and willingness to defend and save not only my life but the lives of the children that have been entrusted to me and my school’s care.

What parents would not want me, a former law enforcement officer, to do all that I can to protect and save the life of their precious child? What guardian would not want me, a teacher currently qualified in the same firearms standards of training as a Colorado police officer, to defend the life of their child? What step-parent would not want me to be trained in emergency trauma response to the same standards as a medical professional to save the life of their child?

For over 20 years, Colorado’s K-12 schools have had an option to protect their children. School boards have been able to authorize selected employees as an armed security team. These security team members have passed qualification tests on par with those tests given to law enforcement, and have been on campuses throughout the state with zero problems since their inception. I am one of the over 400 school employees who have been through FASTER Colorado training.

The FASTER Colorado training I received is a world-class program that enables teachers, administrators, and other school employees to stop school violence quickly and administer medical aid immediately. The high-quality training I received ensures that I am prepared with the mindset, knowledge, and advanced skills to save lives. So, what is this proposed legislation attempting to improve?

Senate Bill 24-131 and House Bill 24-1310 are both unacceptable moves by the state legislature. It’s not your job to provide a solution to a problem that isn’t there, and it’s not your job to pass laws that make teachers and students less safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RN', is written over a large, faint watermark of the same signature.

Robert Norton, MA Ed.
English Teacher
Cresthill Middle School
Douglas County School District

Chairperson and honorable members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today.

My name is Howard McClaskey, Weld County (Congressional District 8, House District 48), representing Church, Private School, and Private Business Organizations.

As Pastor, educator, business owner, parent, and a lawful citizen, I oppose this bill because,

Senate Bill 24-131 does not offer equal protection for individual rights, it does not allow for self-governing citizens to be self-reliant, it does not protect individual rights, and it violates citizens' constitutional right to keep and bear arms for self-defense. Furthermore, it will put children, families, and all law-abiding citizens under threat of probable extreme bodily danger throughout every community across Colorado because it will not prevent unlawful criminals who ignore the law from possessing firearms and doing great harm to innocent people in our communities across Colorado.

Families are the most important and essential unit in society, and it is every citizen's responsibility to protect children, families, and citizens from convicted criminals who commit approximately 65% of all recorded mass shootings.

Churches and private school organizations are most vulnerable because members of these organizations who provide protection for children and families, staff, and other citizens rely on their freedom and right to carry a firearm for self-defense and security of others. Furthermore, this Bill would rob lawful citizens of any reasonable self-defense and make all public and private organizations in every community more attractive targets for criminals who ignore the law.

This Bill will not prevent criminals who ignore the law from harming and even killing innocent children, families, and lawful citizens and will severely disable organizations and their individual members to adequately secure their campuses.

SROs are mandated in Public Schools but private educational organizations like Churches and Schools are left to fend for themselves. And this Bill would make these organizations more vulnerable and put children, families, and lawful citizens at risk because of the already overburdened law enforcement response times.

Senate Bill 217, 2020, had a direct negative impact on law enforcement retention and recruiting in precincts across Colorado who have since reported understaffing of police officer averages as high as 28-33% deficits across the entire state including Denver.

Coupled with Senate Bill 217, Senate Bill 24-131 will increase the already overworked law enforcement officers and leave the public at large with virtually no police protection and no way to protect children, families, and law-abiding citizens in every community.

Conclusion: Thank you for your consideration, I oppose this Bill, and I am willing to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Howard B. McClaskey
PO Box 266
Hudson, CO 80642
970-270-6618
pastor.howard.mcclaskey@gmail.com

The cities with the most gun laws in this county also have the highest amount of gun crime, gun laws do not work. Locking up people committing crimes works, enforce the laws already on the books and do not over legislate people. Criminals do not, by definition follow the law. The second amendment was written not curtail citizens access to firearms but to prevent governments intrusion on my right and responsibility to protect myself, my family and my fellow countrymen. "Shall not be infringed" is clear.

Colorado does not have a legal gun owner problem; it has a violent criminal problem. Lock criminals up the violence goes down. When someone is caught driving drunk, we don't punish the car manufacture or the distiller, we punish the person. Guns are not the problem criminals are.

Senate Judiciary

03/20/2024 01:30 PM

SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Melody Connett For themselves	Please vote in favor of this bill. Families need to feel secure when attending certain places, such as parks, museums, stadiums, etc. I know bad people will not always be deterred by laws...but I also know that continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome is a measure of insanity. Please vote yes. Thank you.
Gena Magill For themselves	My name is Gena Magill, I am a resident of Fort Collins and I would like to voice my strong support for SB24-131 bill. I encourage the committee to vote Yay for this important legislation.
Ralph Goble Against themselves	If this bill passes it will virtually eliminate my ability to protect myself and my family. It is a known fact that those who wish to do harm will not obey any law that is passed. They are considered criminals because they ignore the existing and future laws passed. Those of us that have carry permits do so for the protection of self and others, Had there been someone with a carry permit in Boulder at the grocery store, or the other places of shootings the number of casualties would have been lower. Those who wish to do harm look for "Safe Zones" to do their deed, as they do not want to be confronted. According to John Lott there are over a million times a year the a armed person with a carry permit stops a shooting.
Dawn Doty For themselves	Dear Honorable Representatives, I am writing in strong support of SB24-131, I teach college students at the University of Colorado - Boulder. I have been in class for active shooter incidents near campus, including

	<p>the King Soopers tragedy, and I see the fear in students' eyes as these take place.</p> <p>Guns have been the leading cause of death for American children and teens since 2020, impacting the lives of young people at home, at school and in their communities.</p> <p>A gun sense law like this proposal is responsible. Can't we all agree that there are places where guns should and should not be?</p> <p>We are not advocating for guns to be banned just for guns to be banned in key public places like schools, day care, bars, college campuses, etc.</p> <p>I see the fear in students' eyes when an emergency alert pops up on their laptop in class. Let's erase this fear for kids in Colorado. We can make gun sense laws!</p> <p>Sincerely, Dawn Doty</p>
<p>Craig Bauer Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello. To be fast and frank. The second Ammendment is not negotiable and disarmament is an act of treason and war against the American People as outlined in the second Ammendment justifier of "necessary for the security of the free State". This is not negotiable and all precursor treasonous actions of legislation including federal are acts of treason by the conspiratorial individuals acting outside their constitutional constraints. I recommend all persons who actively pursue this and other Unconstitutional legislation be prosecuted as traitors and/conspiirators against constitutional united states people per title 18. United states code, subsection 241 labeled "Conspiracy Against Rights", and other Laws to punish traitors. Arbitrary designation of sensitive spaces will be manufactured by person's disloyal to their oath to the constitution; as this bill already expressed dishonor upon those who have written it. Are you prepared as democrats to lose your voting privileges in an Unconstitutional usa? The one youre trying to create right now in your usual actions of betrayal of your oaths of office that undermine the constitutionality of the operating tax regime? The collapse would be epic and the blood fueding in the streets would be spoken of for 10000 years.....</p>

<p>Eddie Patin Against themselves</p>	<p>This gun control bill is unconstitutional and will not stop gun crime. Criminals do not obey the law, and if you make a law banning certain firearms, etc., only law-abiding citizens will be restricted. The more you restrict law-abiding citizens, the bolder criminals will become in committing gun violence, as evidenced by all mass shootings that have attacked 'soft targets'.</p> <p>Oppose this unconstitutional bill and others like it. Gun control does not stop gun crime. Gun control only makes gun violence worse, and also prevents good people from enjoying their gun hobby, protecting themselves adequately, and violates peoples' rights. Anyone supporting this bill will be flagrantly opposing the Constitution and our American way of life. When enough people wake up to this and have had enough, you will be removed from office.</p>
<p>Beth DeHaven For themselves</p>	<p>All of the Sensitive Places that are listed in SB24-131 are places that will be safer when no firearms are allowed to be carried on the premises. Certainly daycare centers, libraries, and other places where our children and families often gather deserve extra protection from deadly violence. This bill is one of many that are needed to protect our communities. I ask for your yes vote.</p>
<p>Corinne Carpenter For themselves</p>	<p>I recently had to bring my youngest daughter (age 8) to Childrens Hospital for a scary procedure, I was already nervous about the procedure and outcome. I looked up as entering and noticed a new sign, firearms no longer allowed. I had always considered Childrens Hospital a safe place, but I felt like I was in even better competent hands when I saw that sign. No forced compliance, just this is best for our staff, community and patients. I started to wonder if other hospitals in the state offered this kind of protection. I was relieved that many are starting or moving to this stance. Also, that places like zoos and museums are also no longer allowing firearms.</p> <p>I truly wish ALL of the places I take my children offered that level of protection (schools, amusement parks, places of worship, and health centers, etc). I feel like it will slowly be common to do so, I would rather be part of a state that wants to be one of the first to offer this level of care rather than the last. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Charles Grandmaison Against themselves</p>	<p>How many lives will be lost, by the time armed help will arrive? HOW MANY !! any lives lost due to this bill if it passes will be on your hands if you sign it. That means , children, parents, adults, teachers anyone.</p>

	<p>You cant stop the mind that is intent on doing this shooting of any kind. And they will get there weapon even if you think you can stop it bye taking them from the market. If I can carry any place, that means any place, the person wanting to cause harm, will get one shot. Thats it. One shot, because the second shot will be for that person. If you don't allow teachers, to carry. THEN HOW MANY WILL DIE BEFORE HELP GETS THERE.. HOW MANY PUT THERE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS IF THEY DO BYE PASSING THIS PROPOSAL.</p>
<p>Frank Tapy For themselves</p>	<p>This message is being sent with a strong recommendation for a YES vote on SB24-131 to provide safe, gun-free locations for the people of Colorado. If the NRA talking point of "More guns make us safer." were even nearly true, the US would be the safest developed nation on the planet.</p> <p>Thousands of gun deaths per year shows exactly the opposite. Gun restrictions in other nations demonstrate that fewer guns equates to fewer gun deaths and injuries.</p> <p>Again, please vote in favor of SB24-131. Thank you.</p> <p>Frank Tapy</p>
<p>Jesse Montoya Against themselves</p>	<p>i am against these anti gun bills that you are pushing. All you are accomplishing is making it easier for the criminals to to arm themselves, and taking the rights away from the law bidding gun owners.</p> <p>It is a proven fact that more gun laws does not create less crime it creates more crime against people that cant protect them selves.</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that seeks to ban concealed carry in sensitive places. As a law-abiding citizen and advocate for Second Amendment rights, I believe this bill represents an unwarranted infringement on our constitutional freedoms and would undermine the ability of responsible individuals to protect themselves and their loved ones.</p> <p>While I understand the desire to ensure public safety in certain locations, such as schools, government buildings, and places of worship, it is essential to recognize that law-abiding citizens who undergo rigorous background checks and training should not be arbitrarily prohibited from exercising their right to self-defense. Banning concealed carry in sensitive places creates so-called "gun-free zones" that, tragically, have been shown to attract criminals and leave law-abiding citizens defenseless in the face of violence.</p>

	<p>Moreover, it is important to note that individuals who obtain concealed carry permits have demonstrated a commitment to responsible firearm ownership and have undergone extensive training to ensure safe and lawful firearm use. Punishing these individuals by denying them the right to carry for self-defense in sensitive places not only undermines their constitutional rights but also fails to address the root causes of violence in our society.</p> <p>Additionally, the practical implications of implementing such a ban are deeply concerning. Law-abiding citizens who carry firearms for self-defense should not be unduly restricted from protecting themselves and their families in places where they may face heightened risks. Prohibiting concealed carry in sensitive places effectively denies individuals the ability to defend themselves in potentially dangerous situations, leaving them vulnerable to harm.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is worth emphasizing that responsible concealed carry permit holders are not the problem when it comes to gun violence. The focus should instead be on addressing mental health issues, improving law enforcement efforts to combat illegal firearms trafficking, and strengthening background check systems to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and those who pose a danger to society.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge you to oppose this misguided bill banning concealed carry in sensitive places. Let us work together to uphold the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens and promote policies that enhance public safety without infringing on our fundamental freedoms.</p>
<p>Janet Tapy For themselves</p>	<p>Please vote in favor of SB24-131. As a public health nurse for 33 years, I am acutely aware of the immense harm that the people of Colorado have endured as a result of gun violence. Any legislation that can be passed, such as SB24-131, to mitigate the damage will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Jan Tapy</p>
<p>Amy Zwahlen For themselves</p>	<p>This bill is important to me in addressing gun violence prevention in Colorado and I ask for your yes vote.</p>
<p>David Voell Against</p>	<p>President Biden left \$80 billion of AR 15s, semi-automatic hand guns, munitions, body armor, night vision and other weaponry in Afghanistan for terrorists Taliban, ISIS anyone to collect. President</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>Biden has allowed 9 million illegal invaders into the US homeland and no one knows who they are or where they are in Colorado and the US Homeland.</p> <p>Christopher Wray Director of the FBI tonight 3/12/2024 is warning of highly likely terrorist attacks inside the US. And this body of legislators has drafted law to cancel law abiding US citizens' 2nd Amendment rights to defend our person, family and friends. WHAT THE HECK IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? Your proposed legislation does nothing to criminals. All your proposed legislation will do is make millions of law abiding citizens into criminals.</p> <p>None of you were elected to cancel our rights to self-defense with weapons that are less than what terrorists and criminals are using. WHAT THE HECK IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?</p> <p>Do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>Amanda Ranard For themselves</p>	<p>I'm a Colorado resident and a mother of two young children. I support this bill because it prohibits carrying firearms in many of the places where my children and I go on a regular basis: daycare, the library, and parks. My children's safety is of the utmost importance to me, and by keeping firearms out of these spaces, we can help prevent unnecessary violence and injury.</p>
<p>Laura Jensen Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is a violation of the constitution that will put innocent civilians in danger. Data shows that the overwhelming majority of mass shootings occur in gun free zones. Law-abiding citizens MUST be able to protect themselves in all places.</p>
<p>Derek Ho Against themselves</p>	<p>Senate Bill 24-131 appears to be a backhanded attempt to violate Colorado Constitution Article II, Section 13 by limiting our right to self-defense. This will adversely impact oppressed minorities and women being stalked but do nothing to dissuade those who seek to press their wills on the powerless. Indeed, this will cause these miscreants to focus their attention on "sensitive spaces" since they will know their victims are less likely to possess the means to fight back.</p> <p>Proficient armed volunteers limited tragedy at New Life Church years ago and that scenario has been repeated in the years since. Criminals don't obey the law so anyone voting for this bill should be prepared</p>

	<p>to face anyone who was pre-emptively disarmed and unable to protect themselves or others.</p>
<p>Carol Callicotte For themselves</p>	<p>I don't sit with my back to the door in any restaurant or public place. I wear tennis shoes to the grocery store so I can run. I once left a movie theater because a young man came in alone with a large, bulky backpack.</p> <p>This is what it's like to live in this country, because we have so many guns and have allowed the gun industry to normalize the idea that guns belong everywhere. Guns in public places is not a civilized way to exist, and there is plenty of historical precedent for restricting guns in our shared spaces. 32 states restrict guns where alcohol is served – this is a no-brainer. 18 states restrict firearms in places of worship. Approximately 84% of the top 500 university campuses restrict guns on campus, making Colorado universities a dangerous outlier. We will encourage our kids to leave the state for their university education because of this. Beyond that, when we allow guns into places where there are crowds, where discussions or demonstrations may run hot, where children are present – the chances of those guns being used to do harm, because they are readily available, is too great. I've been a part of marches where the streets were populated with angry men carrying rifles, staring us down. No one should be threatened for acting on their 1st Amendment rights.</p> <p>The other side claims that all gun laws are unconstitutional. That mass shooters target gun-free zones. None of this is true. Mass shooters target places and people they know, and the large majority of mass shootings have taken place where guns are permitted. We have 25X the guns and 26X the gun homicides compared to our peer countries. Guns are not making us safer.</p> <p>Thank you for this bill. I urge a yes vote.</p>
<p>Don Neeley Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is unwise. Data has shown that shooters target gun-free zones knowing that there will be no one there to stop them. As crime has increased it is imperative that we allow citizens to protect themselves and their loved ones. This bill is also foolish in thinking that barring firearms from locations such as churches, without providing any alternate form of protection, makes those places safer. Recent data shows attacks in churches have increased significantly in the last few years. I serve on my church's Safety Team and our efforts</p>

	<p>to provide protection for our members and visitors is reassuring to our people. We are often thanked for keeping watch over our church knowing that it would be less likely for someone to come onto our grounds or into our building and being unobserved. Please vote NO on this bill.</p>
<p>Ryan Darras Against themselves</p>	<p>I was directed here from a petition for this bill that is widely misinformed. The petition is related to the shooting recently at The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, which is a horrible and tragic event that I wish would have never occurred, but the fact of the matter is that as details have come to light it became obvious that the shooter came onto campus with a malicious goal in mind.</p> <p>Choosing to ban firearms, concealed or otherwise, in certain areas would not have stopped this event from happening. Stronger security is a significantly better answer to this kind of problem rather than removing a student's ability to defend themselves.</p> <p>All the effort going towards eliminating firearms is simply going to disarm law-abiding citizens and leave them defenseless against those who don't care to follow the rule of law.</p>
<p>Justin Beard Against themselves</p>	<p>I OPPOSE this bill! Do you really believe law abiding citizens that go through the process to obtain a concealed carry permit are the ones committing crimes? This will only punish those gun owners who are NOT the problem and do nothing to stem actual criminals from continuing to carry wherever they please.</p> <p>And because the language in this bill effectively bans carry most everywhere (government property and adjacent spaces- so like the sidewalk??) how are citizens supposed to protect themselves? Can you guarantee police presence wherever I may be at any time of the day to protect me since I will not be able to protect myself?</p>
<p>Joshua Barnett Against themselves</p>	<p>Simply banning firearms from campuses or any space really will not prevent mass shootings. It will not accomplish anything besides disarming citizens who are protected by the second amendment, and take away rights from people who are responsible with guns. I urge the committee to seriously consider whether the gun is the actual problem or the person who committed is. Even in the uk with banned firearms, attacks and mass atrocities still happen with or without guns. I urge the committee to instead enforce more armed security guards on campuses.</p>

<p>Kevin Cooper Against themselves</p>	<p>All of these anti-gun laws are excessive and seem to only prohibit the law abiding citizen of his/her 2A rights. If you want to fix gun crimes, ENFORCE the law and PROSECUTE the Criminals. If a person commits a felony crime with a gun...hold them responsible for it with a 15-20 mandatory prison sentence with no early release, no good behavior BS. They need to spend every minute of their sentence. Over time, the word would spread that there is no early release and we would see less gun crimes. We need to enforce laws or why even have them. Making more laws that don't get enforced is ridiculous.</p>
<p>Craig Bauer Against themselves</p>	<p>There are several problems with this proposal.</p> <p>It is a back-door registry, and tax, aimed at punishing business owners simply for operating in the firearms industry. It will increase overhead in an industry that is already struggling with the expenses incurred by a plethora of existing restrictions. It will require firearms merchants to obtain their permits by July of 2025, but the bill contains no guarantee about how quickly and efficiently the state will issue permits. This could incur yet another crippling expense by forcing business owners to halt their operations for an unspecified period. And of course, this is an unconstitutional infringement on the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Further, this is felony conspiracy. Title 18 ss 241 USC conspiracy against rights VIOLATION. You are hereby duly notified to cease and desist Unconstitutional infringement as a matter of the act of treason it defines as a matter of the national security clause in the second Amendment. You have ZERO authority to enact firearms legislation per the 14th Amendment. YOU ARE LAW FULLY ORDERED TO CEASE AND DESIST.</p>
<p>Trever Landess Against themselves</p>	<p>The fact that this is even being proposed is a disgrace to Colorado and the United States. It goes against the constitution of the United States of America. "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." Trying to restrict how we the people keep and bear arms is an absolute infringement. Everyone in the Colorado state government swore an oath to protect and abide by the constitution of the United States of America. Everyone that has proposed this unconstitutional bill should immediately resign or be immediately removed from office. You have broken your oath to Colorado and to the United States. We the people will not let this stand!</p>

<p>Brooke McKenna For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Brooke McKenna and I'm a student at Cherry Creek High School, and today, I am testifying in support of bill SB24-131 to Prohibiting carrying firearms in sensitive places.</p> <p>I have spent my whole life worrying about gun violence. Starting at the age of 7, I started to jump at any sound in what was considered a safe space. Remembering my elementary school years, one of the things I remember most is having to go into lockdowns or leaving school early because there was a shooting near us. I remember having the most vivid nightmares at 10 about there being a shooting. I still have these.</p> <p>Around the start of school this year I went to a Bronco game. Before we went into the stadium I heard a loud sound that I could have sworn were gunshots. I ducked. They were actually fireworks. Then last month at the Chiefs Super Bowl parade, it happened. More than 20 people were shot somewhere that should have been a safe space.</p> <p>The gun problem in the United States is so large that it has become normalized. People go to stadiums, hospitals, parks, rec centers, libraries, and universities expecting the worst where they are supposed to be safe. If you support this bill, you will be helping to make it illegal to carry guns in what are supposed to be safe spaces. It will prohibit carrying firearms in places like parks, rec centers, hospitals, sporting venues, bars, libraries, universities, voting centers, and government buildings.</p> <p>This is a common-sense bill. A bill that you would think that we already had, however we don't.</p>
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	<p>No one needs a gun in a park, where you are meant to enjoy your time outside, not where you are supposed to look over your shoulder for a gun. A hospital, where people go for help, not to die.</p> <p>A university, where students, like me, are supposed to be preparing for our future, not a place where our future is ended. It is with these contentions in mind that I support SB24-131. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony in support of SB24-131.</p>
<p>Mark Landess Against themselves</p>	<p>I stand opposed to this bill because it stands in opposition to the rights of United States citizens expressed in the Second Amendment to our Constitution. I have the right to protect my property, loved ones, fellow law-abiding citizens, and the life God entrusted to me. Such a measure is tyrannical. Stand for the Constitution. Don't oppose it with this ridiculous bill.</p>
<p>Cody Vanden Brink Against themselves</p>	<p>This house bill (24-131) is unconstitutional and a direct attack on our second amendment right as citizens of Colorado. I demand that this bill be nullified on the standing that it violates our second amendment rights set forth in the constitution. This bill is a direct attack on law abiding citizens right to bear arms and defend themselves.</p>
<p>Michael Lidmila Against themselves</p>	<p>At a time when crime is on the rise everywhere this law would make it harder for me to protect myself and my family while doing nothing to stop crime.</p>
<p>David Braucht Against themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would like to oppose this house bill as it stands to only impact law abiding citizens. Current and future decisions are based on past experiences, and what has been experienced with the establishment of gun free zones and the prohibition of law abiding citizens being in charge of their own security has resulted in the police showing up AFTER lives have been taken. This also falls under the category of infringement, and is a direct violation of constitutional rights given to us to maintain a free state by our forefathers. If armed guards and armed citizens are employed to guard money, why aren't they employed to guard a more precious resource.....children and people. I</p>

	<p>urge lawmakers to oppose this bill as it's only law abiding citizens that will follow the laws...</p>
<p>Joshua Riddle Against themselves</p>	<p>Most Mass shootings have happened in "Gun Free Zones". If it isn't obvious, "Gun Free Zones" are "Sensitive Spaces" in a trench coat.</p> <p>Criminals are not going to gun ranges or similar areas looking for a challenge. they are seeking the easiest prey they can find. This "Bill" is nothing more than a game preserve for criminals to hunt down people and kill, rape, beat, etc the law abiding people that frequent these areas.</p> <p>Those who vote in favor of this tyrant "Bill" should be held as accessory to murder for every person that dies from the implementation of this act of stupidity.</p> <p>Yet of course. you, the politicians will be safe. protected by people with guns, but we the peasants can die in the streets as long as you and your families are safe.</p>
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richard koeppel Against themselves	Banning concealed and open carry in "sensitive Spaces" is just what the criminals want. If you haven't noticed, Those are the places that criminals and mass shooters target. Have you seen a mass shooting at a Country or biker bar ??? You have not. Colorado is a open carry state and should remain so. It also should become a Constitutional carry state.
sandra wagner Against themselves	I support the Second Amendment and those who believe in the importance of upholding our constitutional rights. This errant bill is in complete violation of those rights. Please vote NO on SB24-131.
Steve Oltman Against themselves	I cannot believe the lengths that the Colorado legislature is willing to go to to deprive Colorado's citizens of their Constitutional rights to self-protection and the legal possession of firearms. This bill, SB24-131, Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Places, is one of the worst yet. It effectively prevents law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves anyplace outside of their own homes. You must realize that only law-abiding citizens will be hurt by this proposed law. Criminals will certainly pay no attention to this law, so they will be the only ones carrying weapons. What could possibly go wrong? Please don't let this dangerous, irresponsible, and probably unconstitutional bill become law. Thank you for your consideration.
Connor Wilson Against themselves	The February 16th "shooting", likely referenced by the advocates of this bill, was a personally motivated double homicide, committed by an enraged and, frankly, extremely mentally unsound individual. There was testimony that the suspect had mentioned prior to the incident that they would shoot the victim(s) in the head the next time

	<p>they didn't take out the trash. These are not the sort of comments made by individuals sound of mind, and it is my belief that this individual would have taken similarly violent actions regardless of whether or not they had access to their personal firearms or not. Additionally, the allowing of concealed carry makes the school and campus as a whole less likely to be targeted for mass shootings, due to the higher chance of retaliation from an unknown party during execution of the attack. Personally motivated acts of violence, such as the incident on February 16th, are often conducted within areas the attacker considers safe or relatively private. These locations are typically not immediately accessible by any form of campus security, and the ability for students and faculty to conceal carry increases the chance of a defender to protect themselves from an attacker, especially an attacker of greater physical strength. It is for these reasons that this bill to ban concealed carry on campus would not only be ineffective, but actively detrimental to the overall security of of the campuses and school as a whole.</p>
<p>jerry blake Against themselves</p>	<p>While the Supreme Court in its Bruen decision agreed that states may ban firearms in traditional "sensitive places" such as government buildings and schools, this horrible bill broadens the category to an absurd number of public places which would effectively encompass the entire state of Colorado and strip the people of their right to self-defense, which the court rejected.</p> <p>Criminals and nut jobs don't respect artificial boundaries and 94 percent of mass shootings occur in so-called gun-free zones. Democrats would simply be creating convenient slaughter pens for nut jobs to take advantage of rather than discouraging them in any way. You would enable criminals to deliberately target people in public parks, community centers and campuses because killers would know that the legislature made them vulnerable and defenseless.</p> <p>Of particular concern with this bill is that it would not allow people to carry in churches. Certainly the legislature must be aware that there have been several attempted mass shootings in churches in the United States that were stopped by armed citizens.</p> <p>On a personal note, I went shopping in the Boulder King Soopers the day before a nut job murdered 10 people there. This sensitive places bill would have done nothing to stop him.</p>

	<p>If this bill becomes law, the taxpayers of Colorado will be forced to fund expensive litigation to defend a blatantly unconstitutional law, along with all the other misguided anti-civil rights legislation the extreme left is pushing this session. right through the next election.</p> <p>Please vote it down.</p> <p>Best regards</p>
<p>Christopher Magee Against themselves</p>	<p>Committee members.</p> <p>My name is Chris Magee.</p> <p>I am a proud resident of Montrose Colorado and I rise in opposition of this bill which denies citizens of Colorado the ability and more importantly the right to defend themselves and their fellow citizens. On the surface this bill seems reasonable. There are places where you are prohibited from carrying a firearm. Here is the issue . These laws already exist! The places listed in this bill...Govt buildings etc are already illegal to carry so why double down with more burocrasy?</p> <p>All this bill does is further punish the law abiding citizen who simply wants to be protected.....something which more often than not the civilian population not law enforcement are the first responders.</p> <p>We all want to tackle the issue of gun violence in this country but punishing those who are law abiding for simply wanting to protect themselves is not the way.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no</p> <p>Chris M</p>
<p>Deborah Gold Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this bill. This could cause almost any place to be considered a "sensitive space" and prevent law-abiding citizens from the right to carry a gun in self defense outside their home. Do NOT pass this bill.</p>
<p>Scott Arnold Against</p>	<p>This hurts law abiding citizens more than anyone. I feel safer out in about if I know that there are more good guys with guns(you're basically encouraging bad people to do bad things, since their threat</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>of counter attack is greatly reduced). ~15 states have enacted constitutional carry since Biden took office. The rest of the country is more 2a. All of you people that sponsored this need to move out of the country. Police can't be everywhere. Please fix are homeless and migrant problems instead of trying to infringe on our rights. Your budget should be cut, stop wasting everyone's time with non value added activities. Stop making this a country of weak helpless people. Look at the south side of Chicago, they have stricted gun laws and tons of shootings. NYC just unleashed the national guard on their subway systems. You Dems are destroying this country with childish policies. Grow up.</p>
<p>Russell Dare Against themselves</p>	<p>This proposed bill would unfairly burden those who lawfully exercise their right to carry a firearm for personal protection. It targets those who are the most responsible people in society while carving out an exemption for law enforcement who by order of magnitude have more unsafe situations involving firearms. This law makes going about your day a nonsensical minefield of places where you'll suddenly be considered a law breaker and it's going to become unclear when those situations are. Over 15% of Coloradans opt to legally carry a firearm and it's not fair to burden those people with potential fines when doing absolutely nothing wrong.</p> <p>Because of recent supreme court decisions the state would be on the wrong side of the law and will face severe financial penalties as it attempts to defend themselves against a torrent of lawsuits that it'll ultimately lose. Spend the state's money to help the state, not to lose in a futile court battle. Support Colorado, vote this bill down.</p>
<p>Michael Heredia Against themselves</p>	<p>As a law abiding citizen of the United States, a veteran of 29 years active duty service in the US Army, a competitive marksman and a hunter, I find this bill to be nothing more than a deliberate attack upon the Second Amendment, as well as my rights to defend myself and my family. It is clearly designed to circumvent the 2nd Amendment ruling of the SCOTUS by defining virtually anyplace people congregate as a "sensitive place" thus rendering honest citizens defenseless in the face of the rising crime now endemic in Colorado due to the legislature's misguided efforts to excuse criminal activity. Current Colorado catch and release laws have given criminals a pass on drug crimes, car theft, assault and rendered bail provisions meaningless. Honest citizens must rely on themselves to defend their lives, family and property but under this hypocritical proposal they will be disarmed in virtually every public place and at the mercy of criminals who have no reason to be deterred by laws that coddle</p>

	<p>them and excuse their criminality. This misguided effort should be immediately dropped.</p>
<p>Jason Keene Against themselves</p>	<p>I am disappointed to hear that this bill would continue to erode the constitutional rights of Coloradoians. It is a proven fact that "safe spaces" are the prime targets of mass shootings. Leaving people completely defenceless is absurd.</p>
<p>scooter sund Against themselves</p>	<p>Personally, this is a horrible idea for the safety of Americans in Colorado, especially with the influx of illegals in Denver AND it also goes against the 2nd amendment. First it's the magazine limit (and the reason Magpul left Colorado), then it's the "assault rifle" issue; you keep infringing on our rights to defend ourselves.</p> <p>i currently open carry to let criminals know that they need to seek an easier target, and so that i can defend my family against criminals who would do us harm.</p> <p>This bill is an erosion of my rights and freedoms, i do not agree to abide by it if by some miracle it passes, and i doubt any sane sheriff or police officer would enforce it. Stop taking away our rights!</p>
<p>Kameron Bain Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Senate,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill seeking to ban conceal carry in churches. As a law-abiding citizen and a firm believer in both our Second Amendment rights and the freedom of religion, I am deeply concerned about the implications of such legislation.</p> <p>This bill not only infringes upon the right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves but also adds a troubling religious context by denying religious practitioners the ability to defend themselves from potential threats. Houses of worship, like any other public space, are not immune to violence, and individuals should have the right to take measures to ensure their safety, including carrying concealed firearms if they are legally permitted to do so.</p> <p>Furthermore, this legislation oversteps the government's sphere of control by encroaching into the realm of religion, an area in which it has no jurisdiction. The separation of church and state is a fundamental principle of our democracy, and any attempt to dictate how religious institutions should operate violates this principle.</p>

	<p>Rather than imposing restrictions on law-abiding citizens and religious organizations, I urge lawmakers to focus on addressing the root causes of violence and promoting measures that enhance public safety without infringing upon our constitutional rights. Additionally, I believe there should be laws in place to prevent the government from ever imposing such restrictions on the ability of individuals to protect themselves, especially in places of worship.</p> <p>In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and to uphold our Second Amendment rights and the freedom of religion. Let us work together to find solutions that prioritize both public safety and individual liberties.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kameron Bain</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to strongly urge you to VOTE NO on SB 24-131. Briefly, this is blatantly an end-around the Second Amendment. How stupid do you all think we are! Gun free zones, along with the gun free zone signs, are an open invitation to criminals that wish to do harm to an un-protected public.</p> <p>In addition, it's one more way for an over-grown government to get more money from its citizens.</p> <p>SB 131 does more harm than good. Please vote NO to protect our God-given rights to protect ourselves.</p> <p>Feeling Unrepresented, Joseph Pero Lakewood.</p>
<p>Earl Perry Against themselves</p>	<p>The effect of this bill, if passed, is to declare "open season" in "sensitive spaces." It provides a handy list of places where the deranged can expect no resistance. Apparently it is founded on the erethismic worry of neurotics that someone might be carrying a concealed weapon somewhere near them - something they apprehend without any visible evidence. This bill would seriously</p>

	handicap the ability of Coloradans to defend themselves by catering to hoplophobes. Please defeat it.
<p>Gary LaDue Against themselves</p>	<p>I wish to register strong opposition to SB24-131. Even as a staunchly liberal voter, I hold a valid Concealed Handgun Permit and I believe this bill does nothing, but limit the rights of law abiding citizens.</p> <p>There is a strong history of minority and oppressed peoples using their rights to carry firearms during protests to advocate for their civil rights. In response to members of the black community open carrying in California during the 60's in protest of police brutality, then governor Ronald Reagan supported and signed a bill banning open carry in the state. It had nothing to do with public safety, and all about suppressing those being oppressed by the police.</p> <p>Additionally, banning and limiting conceal carry in public spaces, targets a vast minority of the population. A group that has already gone through the CBI background check process. A criminal wishing to do harm to public, isn't going to care that there is a ban or limitations in place. Also, there are many places where carrying a firearm in Colorado, concealed or open, are already prohibited.</p> <p>Lastly, the only type of amendment to this bill to make it truly fair, would be to remove the exemption for law enforcement officers. Really think about this question I pose to you ... are you more likely to get shot by a civilian lawfully carrying a firearm, or more likely to be shot and/or killed by the police? Now, think about that if you were a minority or person of color. Banning police officers from carrying firearms in 'sensitive' public areas would save more lives than this current bill will ever save.</p>
<p>Karen Chapman For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you to the sponsors for supporting this important legislation. It will prohibit people from carrying guns, concealed or otherwise, at election and court locations.</p> <p>I have served as an election judge for many years. The last two times we were trained to escape if there was an attack on the election facility. It is crucial that no guns be allowed in such locations as there is no way to tell whether someone with a gun, open or concealed, is a danger.</p>

	<p>Just as the NRA bars all guns from its conventions, carrying a firearm in any manner at polling and court locations is common sense.</p> <p>Please support this legislation.</p>
<p>Keven Drobnitch Against themselves</p>	<p>Hi I want to voice my opposition against this bill to prohibit carrying firearms in sensitive spaces. Please don't put my life or my family's life in jeopardy because of some irrational fear of weapons. If people are carrying concealed they already have training and are law abiding citizens. Please don't take away my ability to protect my family in public places.</p>
<p>Paul Mandal Against themselves</p>	<p>I do not understand why lawful concealed firearm carriers are being targeted by this bill. I am not aware of concealed carriers posing a threat to the public at any significant rate. I feel totally comfortable having lawful concealed carriers around me in the places covered by this bill.</p>
<p>Miguel David Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill does nothing to prevent criminals and illegal gun activities and affects only law abiding citizens and the legal use of guns and personal defense. The attack on our second amendment needs to stop and this bill needs to be abandoned.</p>
<p>Karen Saunders Against themselves</p>	<p>I have a conceal carry permit, and have taken many classes and practice every week to be a responsible gun owner. The constitution gives us the right to bear arms and protect ourselves and I believe this bill is unconstitutional. With the homeless and drug addicts roaming the parking lot where I shop for groceries, gas stations, and on street corners, I do not feel safe without my pistol.</p>
<p>Karen Saunders Against themselves</p>	<p>I have a conceal carry permit, and have taken many classes and practice every week to be a responsible gun owner. The constitution gives us the right to bear arms and protect ourselves and I believe this bill is unconstitutional. With the homeless and drug addicts roaming the parking lot where I shop for groceries, gas stations, and on street corners, I do not feel safe without my pistol.</p>
<p>Michael Lidmila Against themselves</p>	<p>Honest lawful citizens such as myself will be less able to protect myself and family, criminals will pay it no mind.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush</p>	<p>TO: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE</p>

<p>Against themselves</p>	<p>RE: SB24-131 PROHIBITING CARRYING FIREARMS IN SENSITIVE SPACES 3-18-24 BILL TO BE HEARD ON 3-20-24</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO SPRINGS CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE: NO NO NO</p> <p>Over 600 bills have been now proposed in less than 6 weeks. No way you all could read, understand, much less propose this much mess. This bill is just another "lets disarm all of the law abiding citizens" while we give carte blanche to the criminals who will always get guns and weapons when they want to do harm. Your bill limits citizens from protecting themselves, those they love, and their communities. The insane people letting in millions of military aged men through our borders, are also wanting to disarm all of the law abiding citizens. What could go wrong there? Sensitive spaces are exactly where children and innocent citizens need protection. Look at the real profiles of the shootings. Those folks are the criminals. They are not law-abiding gun owners! This bill, and you all have stepped so far over our rights as per the 2nd amendment, it defies logic and truth. Constitutional law has been suspended for too long now. None of this makes rational or legal sense. Are we a gulag, or a free nation with the constitution? I so object to what I see!</p>
<p>Michael Morrissey Against themselves</p>	<p>The only people that will be affected by this bill are those who are currently law abiding citizens. People enter these places every day without event. More than likely everyone has encountered someone conceal carrying and never known it. That is the point, to have the ability to protect someone who means harm decides they want to act.</p> <p>Every shooting has been stopped by someone with a gun. Either the gunman taking their own life or someone else stopping their rampage. The police or security are not everywhere. This bill would only allow these shooters to be able to go on longer without opposition giving more time to take loved ones away from their families by creating soft targets that those wishing to do harm can flock to.</p>
<p>Daniel Foster Against themselves</p>	<p>Concealed Carry Permit holders are able to stop crimes all over the US. Did you not see the denver7.com from 1/2/24 where a family at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science averted a theft. Here in Denver. I have attached a picture/scan detailing more instances from just December, 2023 and January 2024. The FBI has prints of all 10 of my fingers and I had to pass a full background check to get my Carry Permit. Today the "No weapons allowed" signs on entry doors announce to evil people "This is a free zone where law abiding citizens have no way to stop me."</p>

<p>Steve Atkinson Against themselves</p>	<p>Advocating for the absolute right to bear arms. Unregulated gun control is crucial for self-defense, deterring tyranny, historical precedent, equality, and liberty preservation. It ensures individuals can defend against rising crime rates and oppressive governments. By upholding this right, marginalized communities gain equal footing in self-protection. History shows disarmed populations often face tyranny. In essence, safeguarding this right reaffirms individual autonomy and limits government overreach, essential for a free society.</p>
<p>Janet Chapple Against themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to this bill. I am a daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother who wants to continue to be safe when attending church, a movie theater, a park, at the grocery store, among many other places.</p> <p>This "sensitive spaces" bill would prohibit weapons, including concealed carry weapons by law-abiding citizens in many places. All you will succeed in doing is to create "soft" targeted locations for criminals. If this bill passes, every time we attend church, go to the store, etc., we are completely vulnerable.</p> <p>Bottom line, this bill would remove the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves in a legal manner against criminals. Please keep in mind that the criminals don't abide by the existing laws so please don't infringe on legal 2nd Amendment rights.</p> <p>Thank you, Janet Chapple</p>
<p>Miguel David Against themselves</p>	<p>Please stop this bill from happening. This is nothing more than an attack on the Second Amendment and those who exercise their rights under it. This bill does nothing to prevent crime, and only target law-abiding gun owners by making it more difficult to defend themselves against criminals.</p>
<p>Micah Vacco For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Micah Vacco and I am a junior at the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. I am representing the over ten thousand strong community of UCCS. I am writing in support of SB24-131 to prohibit carrying firearms in sensitive public spaces.</p> <p>As a member of this community, ensuring safety for our residents, especially in spaces meant for gathering and learning, is of</p>

	<p>paramount importance. The tragic shooting at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs that claimed the lives of two bright young students, Samuel Knopp and Celie Montgomery, has shaken us to the core. It serves as a stark reminder of the ever-present danger posed by firearms in spaces dedicated to personal growth and the pursuit of knowledge.</p> <p>Prohibiting firearms in locations like college campuses, polling places, and public demonstrations will create a safer environment for all. These spaces should be sanctuaries where individuals can engage in civic activities, learn, and express themselves freely without fear of gun violence. Responsible gun ownership does not negate the need for reasonable restrictions in sensitive areas frequented by children, students, and families.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill provides clear exceptions for law enforcement, military personnel, and authorized security to ensure public safety is maintained. It strikes a sensible balance between preserving Second Amendment rights and promoting community well-being by limiting firearms in high-risk public gatherings.</p> <p>While no law can undo the deep loss our community has experienced, taking proactive steps to enhance campus security and prevent future tragedies is imperative. I urge you to support SB24-131 and make Colorado a safer place for all its residents to live, learn, and thrive. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Micah Vacco</p>
<p>Ralph Goble Against themselves</p>	<p>As a CCW permit holder this bill will remove my God given right to self-defense. I would not be allowed to carry when shopping, going to dances, Church, or any of the other various activities that I routinely attend. Should this bill pass only those that disobey the law (criminals) will be carrying in restricted places, and we will not be able to defend ourselves if the need should arise.</p>
<p>Marshall Holmes Against themselves</p>	<p>Prohibiting people from carrying firearms does not increase public safety. Anybody looking to commit murder will not think twice about ignoring gun free zones. In fact, murderers have historically targeted such areas due to the decreased chance that they will be stopped. States that have removed restrictions on people carrying firearms have not seen increases in shootings while simultaneously recording fewer crimes. An armed population is a deterrent.</p>

	<p>This list of sensitive places is so broad that it will become nearly impossible for people to defend themselves.</p>
<p>Reedy LASH Against themselves</p>	<p>I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB24-131. Unless the laws have changed, you already can not carry a firearm into a courthouse, correctional facility or juvenile detention center. LEO's who work at these locations use lockboxes to store their weapons when in these facilities except at courthouses when on duty or assigned to a courthouse. It is unlawful to be in possession of a firearm when consuming alcoholic beverages, so why are you trying to pass laws to prohibit something that is already unlawful. A couple of weeks ago an active shooter was shot in Joel Osteen's church in Houston and several years ago an active shooter was stopped by an armed person in Colorado Springs. There have been numerous church shooting, some were stopped by armed members in those congregations, yet you want to stop the ability of parishioners to protect themselves, yet this will do nothing to stop an active shooter in another "Gun Free Zone". Churches are open to the public, but are privately owned, not state owned, what gives you the right to tell a congregation they can't protect themselves. Also disarming teachers where unfortunately school shootings happen is another example of making a group of people a target for a person who wants to commit murder. This bill makes no sense at all, only endangers more people and is all about CONTROL. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING, do something positive for the state, enforce the laws that are already on the books.</p>
<p>MARTHA OHLSON For themselves</p>	<p>A couple of years ago, I was riding my bicycle on the Arkansas River Trail in Pueblo. On the way back to town from the reservoir, the trail passes through the River Campus of the Nature Center, a city-owned park. I was going through the park about 5:15 pm on a weekday (gift shop and buildings were closed by then) and as I approached, I saw a guy lurking in the open wooded area near the buildings. White male, probably in his 20's, wearing black lederhosen with no shirt. He had a handgun, with a silencer attached, tucked into the suspenders of his lederhosen. This guy scared the heck out of me. I pedaled as fast as I could and put the gears up a couple of notches and got past him and out of there as fast as I could. I am not strong (age late 60's), so my fast is not really that fast, but it was fast for me. I didn't slow down until I felt like I was safely out of range. I was still shaking when I got home. I didn't report this to the police because I think it was probably legal for him to be there with his gun and silencer (what's up with the silencer?) and I would just be told that he has rights and I do not. Interestingly, he was the only one in the park when I arrived. Normally, on a beautiful weather day after work hours, there would be a few families there with children running around in the area that the guy was menacing. I don't know if there had been people there</p>

	<p>when he arrived and they left when he showed up with his gun or if people had arrived after and went back to their cars with the kiddos as soon as they saw him, but it was unusual to have the place that deserted. It seems unfair that one guy , who has all the rights, can prevent so many others, who have no rights, from enjoying the park. I think that guns should be prohibited from all the sensitive areas listed in the bill, including parks. We need to have some safe spaces.</p>
<p>Evelyn Curtis For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I write to you as a student attending the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, urging the support of SB24-131. Twenty-six days ago, I was woken up at 6:20 AM to police in my dorm room asking if there were bullet holes in my floor. Twenty-six days ago, I didn't know that concealed carry weapons that were registered were allowed to be on the campus where I live. My friend Sam was murdered on February 16th below my dorm with an unregistered weapon that made it's way into the wrong hands, through doors, and past meek security measures. That same weapon could've easily been registered and allowed to be carried on my campus. The dorms are a shared residential area with many people we don't know, but it's also our home. This bill can't change the past, and it won't stop every crime, but it can help to prevent senseless, and cruel violence in the schools and other sensitive spaces of Colorado. I plead with you, as do many of my classmates and friends, to take action and decide today to help us heal, and help us make a difference by supporting SB24-131. Don't let guns be carried into our homes. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Jams Rose Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose this bill because it would undermine or prevent the currently legal carrying of firearms in a large part of the state, effectively violating the Bruen Supreme Court decision. It is clear from empirical evidence that would be murderers prefer "gun free" zones to commit their attacks because they realize that they are safer to do so. Passing this proposal into law would increase danger to unarmed as well as currently legally armed citizens. This would not be a life saving bill but a life endangering bill and a violation of Constitutional rights. Would be murderers are not going to obey any laws regarding "sensitive spaces" except to prefer them for their crimes. Assertions by gun control activists that people with concealed carry permits are responsible for many killings are based on fabricated and untrue claims.</p>
<p>Deborah Griffin For</p>	<p>My name is Deborah Griffin and am testifying on behalf of myself.</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of this bill SB 24-131 – Prohibiting carrying a firearm in Sensitive Spaces.</p> <p>I am a resident of Colorado Springs, a wife, Mother, and a Nurse Practitioner.</p> <p>I have personally been affected by gun violence with the 2007 New Life Church shooting (killing 1 and wounding 4), a 2010 suicide in the hospital workplace with a firearm, and the 2015 Planned Parenthood shooting (killing 3 and wounding 9).</p> <p>Churches, hospitals, and health care clinics should be safe places for employees, visitors, and others. They should not be a shooting range.</p> <p>Most times, the easy access and availability of firearms in the hands of someone in crisis, results in death, injury, and lifelong trauma to survivors. I am a survivor and wish I wasn't. Statistics of gun violence does not include family, friends, bystanders and others, that are forever traumatized by this violence.</p> <p>We know that the presence of firearms greatly increases the risk of lethal and near-lethal outcomes. I believe in the Second Amendment and having trained people in places with firearms, but many people that carry firearms don't know what to do in a crisis situation and can be a danger to themselves and others.</p> <p>In America, it seems to be some gun owners mission is to "save the day" as a "good guy with a gun" and take the life of others. I don't know who is the good guy or the bad guy, I don't feel safe with either of those folks. We have heard the opposition of this bill feels it infringes on their constitutional rights – it does not, I feel it is intended to raise the standards to make Colorado safer for all. My hospital and clinic are in the business of saving lives and we should be protected from gun violence by prohibiting firearms in sensitive spaces.</p> <p>I encourage you to support this bill and vote YES.</p>
<p>Martin Tylicki Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to you today to oppose this bill. Originally I was only going to suggest an amendment but after rereading the text it's become clear this bill unfairly targets anyone who wants to legally carry a gun but doesn't have a car.</p> <p>The amendment I was going to propose was to add holders of valid Concealed Handgun Permits to the list of exceptions. People with</p>

	<p>CHPs have already gone through the necessary steps to register with their sheriff's department including getting fingerprinted. This bill would punish those people by barring them from carrying concealed in common areas such as parks and public spaces with events leaving them unable to defend themselves even though they are law-abiding citizens and have the right to do so. Parks especially seem overly restrictive as it's unclear if these are just parks within city limits or also parks where camping takes place. I always bring a firearm when I go camping for protection and find it ridiculous that this could be made illegal if public parks are labeled as sensitive spaces.</p> <p>The reason I switched to oppose is the fact that this bill's only exception to carrying in these sensitive spaces is inside a locked box in a car. This means that anyone who doesn't have a car but does lawfully carry would essentially be banned from certain public areas or be forced to not carry at all. This is unfair and we shouldn't be making laws that give exceptions to the wealthy and privileged while removing the rights of others.</p> <p>This bill will not deter criminals who already conceal carry illegally from continuing to do so, but it will punish law-abiding citizens who go through the proper procedures for exercising their rights. I hope that you vote no to prevent this bill from going into law.</p> <p>Thanks, Martin</p>
<p>richard koeppel Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this bill, as this is just an advertisement and an invite to criminals and those wanting to do harm to go and shoot up places because they know that nobody will be able to stop them. Has there ever been a mass shooting at a biker or cowboy bar ??? I think not. We need open and concealed carry to prevent people from doing harm.</p>
<p>John Henderson Against</p>	<p>I am failing to see how a bill that bans state-approved CCW holders from exercising their rights in public places will affect criminals who already ignore the law. This bill would effectively ban legal concealed carry in most of Colorado. Not only is it enough for you to require</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>multiple approval steps for law-abiding Coloradans to carry their legal firearms for protection across the state, now you are saying "despite the class, the background checks, fingerprints, photographs, and 6-8 weeks wait for your permit, we still don't trust you enough to carry a firearm for protection so we are banning you from doing so." In fact, this bill is just a statement that says you dislike Coloradans and their Second Amendment rights so much, you are willing to criminalize them even after they have followed all the rules. Criminals don't carry legal CCW permits, so how will this stop them from breaking the law? It won't, it just targets the law-abiding. This bill must be rejected whole-heartedly.</p>
<p>Darrell Dinges Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose further restrictions against allowing Colorado citizen to legally carry firearms. In many parts of the Colorado, law enforcement could be a half hour or more away. People in these areas need to be available to defend themselves, whether as school staff, within a church or park. Even in metro areas law enforcement could require 10 minutes or more to respond. With the current trend decreasing funding for law enforcement, people need to be more reliant on self-protection. This bill would be like telling a mountain homeowner, he could not own a fire extinguisher, because he is not a fireman.</p>
<p>Samuel Urquhart Against themselves</p>	<p>I would like to express my strong opposition to SB24-131. This bill is a clear infringement of both the U.S. and Colorado Constitution. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly states, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" and Article II, § 13 of the Colorado Constitution states, "The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property... shall be called into question;". I understand that mass shootings are a problem and need to be addressed. Taking away the rights of law-abiding citizens who only seek to defend themselves and their families is not the way to stop mass shootings. Nothing in SB24-131 requires the "sensitive places" outlined to have any measures to protect citizens or prevent armed criminals from ignoring arbitrary boundaries and entering. Law-abiding gun owners should not face criminal penalties for simply crossing arbitrary lines. Criminals, by their very nature, do not abide by laws or regulations; thus, they are undeterred by the prospect of encountering unarmed individuals. Instead, these zones disarm law-abiding citizens, leaving them vulnerable and defenseless in the face of danger. All I seek to do is defend myself and my family and unconstitutional laws, such as SB24-131, would prevent me from doing that in the event of a mass shooting and many other unforeseen situations. 94% of mass shootings occur in these gun-free zones; laws and signage are not enough to stop criminals. There are other more effective ways to enact "gun control" without stripping the rights of law-abiding</p>

	<p>citizens. Increasing gun safety education and encouraging the lawful bearing of arms would have a great impact on reducing mass shootings. Stand with me against SB24-131</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against themselves</p>	<p>As a 27 year resident of Northern Colorado, I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB24-131, which would greatly restrict places where responsible gun owners can carry their defensive firearms. This is an extremely misguided attempt at limiting the Second Amendment rights inherent in our Bill of Rights, and is guaranteed to adversely effect the safety of law abiding Coloradans, as well as the Rights of freemen, responsible gun owners.</p> <p>Restricting where law abiding citizens, who are a force multiplier (ask any law enforcement officer...) unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners and enthusiasts who are concerned with the safety of themselves and their families when traversing nearly any place in Colorado EXCEPT THEIR OWN HOMES! We live and work out in the world and expect and are required as citizens to protect ourselves and those around us. This proposal imposes undue burden on individuals exercising their Second Amendment rights and would lessen participation in these Constitutionally guaranteed activities!</p> <p>I respectfully and STRONGLY urge you to OPPOSE any legislation that seeks to limit any further areas where law abiding citizens can carry defensive firearms.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my perspective on OPPOSING RESTRICTIONS TO WHERE WE CAN CARRY SB24-131!</p>
<p>Paul Homberger Against themselves</p>	<p>I would first like to thank you for your willingness to serve as a representative for the people of Colorado. As an educator in our public school system, I understand the importance of educating, representing, and serving our community.</p> <p>Last year, I wrote an e-mail to you asking you to vote against the bill, HB23-1230 Prohibit Assault Weapons in Colorado. I was relieved that the bill was voted down and that you, the legislators, listened to the</p>

	<p>tens of thousands of emails, phone calls, and letters that were sent to you asking you to not support this bill. I had pride at the end of the legislative session that our representative government listened to the public.</p> <p>This year, I see that a similar bill, HB24-1292 Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings, was introduced for consideration. I am disappointed to see the introduction of this bill. I respectfully ask that you vote no on this very similar bill.</p> <p>Last year, the legislature passed several bills pertaining to public safety and gun ownership. I ask that you allow more time to pass to gather data to see if those bills/laws are enough to have the desired effect on gun violence before dedicating time, resources, and energy into vilifying and punishing responsible gun owners with continuing to pass additional bills.</p> <p>Instead, put your energy and resources into addressing those individuals that would harm others regardless of the type of violence they choose. Propose bills that will help individuals that struggle with bullying, social acceptance, financial opportunity, hate, isolation, suicidal ideation, early childhood trauma, online addiction, and abuse whether physical, sexual, or emotional. We all need to be proactive and help our fellow Coloradoans before they decide to use any weapon illegally.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you do not punish responsible gun owners. Instead, focus on helping those who need our support and help. Therefore, I ask that you vote no.</p>
<p>Brian Christie Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Esteemed Legislators:</p> <p>I have read the text of SB24-131 and wish to express my vehement opposition to it. I understand the intention is to protect the general public, but I ask you: do you really believe criminals will adhere to this law any more than the other laws they are willing to break?</p> <p>This bill will tie the hands of the general public (and all responsible gun owners) and make it impossible for those who have the desire to protect themselves. The entire population will be SOLELY dependent upon the police response which is not immediate. One minute is</p>

	<p>more than enough time for a criminal to rob or shoot someone and get away. No police force can respond within a minute, or two or three.</p> <p>Our country's founders recognized a need for ordinary citizens to keep and bear arms. They did not intend this right to be restricted to just peoples' own premises.</p> <p>You are lawmakers who were elected by the people, for the people to DEFEND our rights and our safety. This bill seeks to take away both. Despite what I'm sure are best intentions, this bill willfully defies the United States Constitution and undermines the rights of the very people you swore to serve.</p> <p>Please remove this bill from consideration. These attempts to prohibit good people from exercising these rights only emboldens criminals who will know that absolutely nobody will be a threat to them. This makes these "sensitive areas" MORE dangerous, not less.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brian Christie</p>
<p>Kevin Anderson Against themselves</p>	<p>Committee Members:</p> <p>Expanding gun free zones would create more spaces for criminals to target law abiding citizens unable to protect themselves. Due to the vastly expanded array of gun free zones otherwise law abiding citizens may unknowingly become criminals.</p>
<p>Francia Abel For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Chair and Members,</p> <p>I am writing in support of bill SB24-131. As a mother of school-aged children and healthcare worker am I deeply concerned about the easy access to firearms and assault weapons to any one who wishes one and their ability to carry these in areas where innocent bystanders could be hurt. People are being shot daily for entering in situations where, if a gun was not present, most likely that shooting would not happen and situations would diffuse in a less violent way. I have seen the effects of gun violence as a healthcare worker, not only for the victims but their families as well. As a mother, I constantly live in fear that I have kissed my kids goodbye for the last time. Guns have no</p>

	place in areas where innocent, unarmed civilians could be hurt. Please vote yes on bill SB24-131.
Hazel Gordon For themselves	<p>The staggeringly high incidence of gun violence in this country is a great cause for concern for most Coloradans who care about others as well as themselves. Although it has been publicized in the media that less than 6.3% of Coloradans are recreational hunters (Colorado Sun, March 20, 2024), nevertheless some 37% of Coloradans possess at least one gun and the state ranks 18th of all states in the number of firearm-related deaths (CRP News, Feb. 24, 2024). In addition, at least 60 mass shootings have occurred in Colorado since 2014 (same news source) and over 149,000 registered ("legal") guns have been counted recently (Colorado Sun, March 20, 2024)</p> <p>I believe that the passage of SB24-131 will help to curtail the incidence of mass shootings and gun violence and will provide incentives to alert the public to become more aware of those who ignore these laws in sensitive places.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of SB 24-131.</p>
Jeff Callaway Against themselves	<p>Please do not restrict my ability to defend myself, my family, and my fellow citizens. Instead, you should invest in making sure more individuals are trained and able to protect themselves and others. When you restrict the ability to concealed carry, you make those locations a target. This is important for all places, but especially those with vulnerable populations that are not easily able to escape or physically fight back against potentially larger and stronger individuals that would wish them harm (or people that are illegally armed anyway). Being prepared to defend ourselves and those around us is a solemn responsibility that many citizens embrace, so I urge you to vote NO on this bill.</p>
Kimberly Green For themselves	<p>I am mother of two small children, and I support this bill with the hope that keeping guns out of public places will better protect our citizens. Thank you.</p>
Stephanie Jordan Against themselves	<p>This is completely against our second amendment right first and foremost! The fact that more recently we have had more church shootings than ever before and this is being positioned to take away the right to protect our community is absolutely ridiculous and insane! Our community with Christ has been and will be under attack more so than ever before! The men and women who go through interviews and extensive trainings to be able to protect our men and</p>

	women and our CHILDREN from predators and from the mentally ill whom want them dead, should absolutely be able to defend those who are innocent! This world is under attack and specifically our religious communities! There is only one way to protect against someone who enters with a weapon, and that is with a weapon of our own! Pistol or long barrel! PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!!!!!!!!!!!
Mike Stern Against themselves	As a responsibility firearm owner, a former law enforcement officer. I can say that taking firearms away from those of us who are trained and understand gun safety. We are defenseless against those that are not willing to turn over their firearms. Criminals will continue to do what they do, laws do not hold them in place. Most of the crimes committed with a firearm are handguns not rifles. I feel this bill should be reformed to handle crimes with handguns and have harsher penalties for those who wish to do evil acts.
Phillip Escobedo Against themselves	I have been a volunteer at our local community church for the last three years, I have been fortunate to train with some excellent men and women volunteers that make our place of worship a safer place to be. It would be a crying shame if we are unable to protect our women, children. And elderly against a threat that we so often see in our communities. College campuses, houses of worship, we have witnessed too many active threats and how lives have been saved because of having our right to carry at these places. I'm hopeful that the right thing is done here and that we are not stripped of our rights to protect ourselves and the innocent.
Cindy Staudt Against themselves	I want to express my extreme displeasure with this proposed bill. You are targeting law abiding citizens and not doing enough to punish criminals. Where are these statistics that show this would lead to a decrease in crime? You don't have any do you? That's because it doesn't work. Just look at California. Stop trying to make abiding citizens the enemy and vote no on this bill.
Mark Petri Against themselves	I am against more laws that only hamstring and create unsafe environments for the law-abiding citizens of this great state, while giving more leeway for criminals (who will not abide by the law, but take advantage) to have the upper hand in their ambitions to harm the people who live in this state. What kind of protection will be in place for the attendees of events, children, teachers, parents, visitors, and other innocent bystanders if such a law is passed? The criminals will have free reign to do as they please while us law-abiding citizens are sitting ducks. Please think about what you are voting on. It's not a law for the safety of our citizens, it's a law for criminals to have the upper hand.

<p>Pete Fibiger Against themselves</p>	<p>The second amendment of the Constitution says 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. I'm not exactly sure. What part of shall not be infringed? You can't understand. Or are you deciding to simply ignore that part of the constitution? I understand you elected are nothing more than part-time employees and you are trying to enact your will and prejudices upon the living souls of Colorado. As you may know government operates through the consent of the governed and to all you liberals, even Obama acknowledged that to be fact. I for one do not give you my consent, explicit or tacit, especially when it comes to trying to take away my God given rights as a native born American. You, as the elected, you need to stay within the color of law and stay within the scope of your office and as you may not know when you step outside of that scope of the law you commit a felony. These felonies need to be prosecuted more often. So you the elected stay within the lane of your operation. After reading the second amendment, I struggled to see where in that law (the law that protects my rights) it give you the right to tell me where I can and can't carry arms. Furthermore Chief Justice John Marshall said it best in Marbury v. Madison (5 U.S. 137) 1803, when he said "A law repugnant to the Constitution is void". Since the second amendment says nothing about how I can carry arms or where I can't carry the arms your law is no avoid and no one needs to abide by it. Even if this law passes, it will be an unconstitutional law and you will all have committed a felony for stepping outside the scope and color of the constitution. Since I am a free living soul and a patriotic American with self-determination, where I live by the law of the land which is the Constitution of the United States and the Bible, I will not abide or comply with your own constitutional law. After all, your legislations are not meant to protect Americans. They are meant to protect the evil ones who want to destroy us. The second amendment was made into law to protect us from you the tyrannical government.</p>
<p>Robert Smith Against themselves</p>	<p>I am testifying against this bill, as I believe it will make Coloradoans less safe these so called "sensitive places" will be targeted by violent criminals specifically as they will face no opposition whilst carrying out an attack. This proposed law will not disarm dangerous criminals and is not consistent with the text, history or tradition of gun regulations in the United States as defined by the Supreme Court in the NYSRPA v. Bruen decision.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>

<p>Geoffrey Laubhan Against themselves</p>	<p>This is absolutely absurd. Disarming the good guys will only allow more mass shootings!</p>
<p>Natalie Jensen For themselves</p>	<p>I experienced my first bomb threat in elementary school as a 5th grader. A high school student had planted explosives around the campus. This inspired my parents to put me through extensive training in self defense Sade and active shooter procedures, including disarming a gunman, and running from a shooter. Despite my training, I still don't feel safe because people are still dying. My dear friend Sam Knopp was murdered in his dorm on the UCCS campus. Why are we still watching our friends die to gun violence? This bandaid solution of security and self defense training isn't working anymore. We NEED this change to happen to feel safe on our campuses again. I can't keep watching my friends die.</p>
<p>Tim Wunder Against themselves</p>	<p>I am now writing my second testimony of the week in response to the unconstitutional overreach of power wielded against the 2nd amendment rights of the citizens of Colorado and U.S. Any lawmaker that is actually educated on the intent and functionality of concealed carry protection should be aware of the term "soft target." This is an area that is almost always occupied by large groups of people at once who have no ability to defend themselves before the arrival of police responders. Obviously, soft targets are continuously targeted by mass shooters and perpetrators of other forms of large scale violence. The function of concealed carry is to allow people to protect themselves outside of their homes, which almost always includes the "sensitive areas" listed in this bill.</p> <p>Are you really going to tell me that my wife won't be able to go to a public park, by herself, with our kids and not be able to carry the weapon that she has been licensed and trained with? Are you going to make the assumption that public parks are naturally safe with no threat from violent perpetrators? If not, are you going to provide my family with armed guards? Increase the size of our police force and cut response times in half? Or will my family become a soft target during a crisis situation? Forced to fend for themselves for 5 to 15 minutes before the only people that you deem worthy of carrying firearms finally show up?</p> <p>In terms of private property, you have no right to make decisions for private property owners who would willingly allow concealed carry.</p>

	<p>Churches should not be forced to openly declare whether or not this is allowed.</p> <p>This is a gross overreach of power threatening not only the 2nd amendment rights of the people that you have sworn an oath to, but to the separation of church and state.</p> <p>Invest your time and our tax money into the larger problems of this state. Like the ever increasing number of homeless drug users who are constantly erratic and threatening (especially on public transportation systems!)</p> <p>You are seeking to prevent violent criminals from taking the lives of others by stripping law abiding citizens of their rights to protect themselves without guaranteeing their safety through other means. This is a self-contradicting, egregious display of virtue signaling without upholding your responsibility for actually protecting your citizens. You want them safe? I hope you can afford to provide an armed guard for each of your almost 6 million citizens.</p>
<p>Nicholas Skalisky Against themselves</p>	<p>SB24-131 will not protect anyone. Instead, it will make gun owners into lawbreakers, or disarm citizens so that they are vulnerable to assailants and shooters, who don't care about the laws they are already breaking (therefore they will not mind breaking another one). The movie theater shooter in Aurora specifically targeted a gun free zone, so his victims would be defenseless.</p> <p>I carry at church in order to protect members of the church, and this bill could negatively impact myself and them. Additionally, this will render defenseless people who frequent public venues such as park, who do not have immediate access to armed security. People deserve the right and the opportunity to protect themselves and others, and not be dependent on the government to show up 10-20 minutes later when it is too late. The average police response time to a shooting is far too long, and even it were shortened, a well-trained conceal carrier can return fire in under 2-3 seconds. Instead of taking away our rights, you should be encouraging people to have the right attitude and training to protect oneself and others with a firearm.</p>
<p>Geoffrey LAUBHAN Against</p>	<p>I am against this. This is asking for evil to enter into these establishments. We have seen church shootings recently more and</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>more. If a safety team waits for law enforcement to show up.. each bullet from the shooter can be a life.</p>
<p>Leif Sigstedt Against themselves</p>	<p>I don't know how anyone thinks that making half the state into a gun free zone is a good idea. The vast majority of "active shooter incidents" in the US happen in gun free zones. This seems to me to be just about doling out more punishment to the law-abiding gun owners that our current politicians seem to hate so much. People who have their concealed carry permits are the very epitome of law-abiding, having an extremely low level of committing crimes compared to the rest of the population. After recent rulings such as Bruen, trying to pass laws like this as quite an act of direct defiance of their authority. If we don't follow their rulings then what exactly are we supposed to follow? The constitution seems to be off of the table as well. I've never seen so many attempts to remove our inherent human rights here in Colorado as I see this year and it makes me sad. I miss the days when we could agree on things like these, as they are the backbone of what it meant to be an American. I urge anyone considering this bill to reconsider voting for it. Just because you have the power to do something doesn't mean that you should. In this case, in my opinion, it's outside of the purview of what congress is able to do, and on top of that it's a big mistake. Just look at California's recent (and nearly identical) bill SB-2 and how fast it was declared unconstitutional and how it's now been stayed. Lastly, if you are going to end up trying to remove people's right to defend themselves in these places, then you should be legally liable for anything that happens to us in these areas as a result of being disarmed. That and an around the clock armed security force should be required at any and all of these locations. That's the only way that this could be justified in any way shape or form. Vote no on SB-24-131.</p>
<p>Donna LaBelle Against themselves</p>	<p>Chair Gonzalez and members of the Judiciary committee, thank you for the privilege of being able to share my thoughts and concerns with you. My name is Donna LaBelle. I represent myself but at the same time I know I represent many who for a variety of reasons will most likely not ever testify themselves but I hope to encourage many of them to do just that. Last night at 10:25 PM I was the last person to testify before the House Judiciary committee regarding 1292, a bill aiming to prohibit certain weapons. 577 of us signed up to speak and 48 weren't even able to be heard within the 12-hour allotted time frame. I learned a lot from the testimony. And because of what I heard I have a question for you, a rhetorical question of course but a very real one. And the question is WHY? Why would this bill ever be</p>

	<p>put forth if the intent really is more safety and less violence and mass shootings? Last night I learned that we know how to stop them by ending soft targets. Legal gun owners are extremely safety conscious people! Schools and places where guns are prohibited put out a neon Welcome sign to people that commit these horrendous crimes. As was stated, they never happen in a gun stores or police stations. Or even here at the capitol because of all the measures put in place. We heard it a hundred times yesterday: criminals do not follow laws, law abiding citizens do so this law would strip away all self defense options for them. I truly do not understand the logic behind this bill at all. Please vote no. Thank you.</p>
<p>Maxwell Hayes Against themselves</p>	<p>I can not for the life of me figure out why the government allows criminal aliens, terrosit, gang members and Mexican cartel members in America and then tell the American people they are not allowed to carry guns. The only answer is the colosdo wants DEAD AMERICANS. I shoot at a tange weekly and not once has their been a mass shooting at my range, because it's not the guns that kill people it's George soros suicide shooters that kill American and the colorado government. The same government that has declared war onthe American people.</p>
<p>Scott Pennington Against themselves</p>	<p>This clearly unconstitutional bill would cost citizens their lives and dramatically increase violent crime. If the state declares that a place is sensitive, then it must provide immediate security and protection for all individuals who have been made helpless by being disarmed. Firearms save lives. Your armed security prove that to be true. Stop making citizens vulnerable to those with violent intent.</p>
<p>Tom Darabaris Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill will make places of worship targets for violence because you will be stripping individual citizens from their ability to protect themselves. You are violating people's 2nd Amendment rights. Religious communities both domestic and abroad have increasingly been targeted for violence. This bill is putting thousands of citizens at risk. As a concerned citizen, I strongly oppose.</p>
<p>Benjamin Luksch Against themselves</p>	<p>This misguided bill aims to crack down on violence by stripping the most responsible citizens of their second amendment rights. These are the very same people who would put an end to a mass shooting event if confronted with the responsibility to do so. This bill accomplishes the exact opposite of what it is meant to do by turning many vulnerable locations into easy targets for criminals. Moving this bill forward would increase the likelihood of mass shootings by providing a list of locations where a deranged individual would be most likely to stage a mass casualty event. If the committee is truly</p>

	<p>concerned about safety in the aforementioned locations, they will scrap this bill.</p>
<p>Steven Dean Against themselves</p>	<p>Testimony of Steven A. Dean March 20, 2024 Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee</p> <p>Testimony Against SB24-131</p> <p>Good afternoon Chair and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.</p> <p>My name is Steven Dean, I have been a citizen of Colorado for 23 years and have lived in Douglas County for 15 years. I am an aerospace engineer, father, husband, youth leader, and precinct committee person.</p> <p>I oppose SB24-131 based on the Amicus Brief submitted to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in the case of RENO MAY, ET AL. v. Bonta linked here: https://crimeresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/57.1-PORAC-Amicus-Brief.pdf. Colorado SB24-131 violates the US Constitution similarly to California SB2.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Claire Lucas For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you to the committee members for letting me submit my testimony in writing. I was there for 5 hours, but had to leave. My name is Claire Lucas. I am testifying on behalf of myself.</p> <p>My daughter was a student at Park County High School in Bailey, CO. Seventeen years ago there was a hostage situation at my daughter's school. As a parent, I lived through a nightmare all afternoon waiting to learn if my daughter was alive or dead. Before that afternoon was over the hostage taker shot one student in the head as she tried to escape. He killed her.</p> <p>When violent acts occur in our communities, the incident has a ripple effect. Not only are the people immediately impacted by the event traumatized, but also their friends, family members, and the greater</p>

	<p>community, who feel the pain, loss and a sense of insecurity. No longer do they feel safe going to school, going to the grocery store or being in large crowds. The trauma of that day haunts the entire community for years.</p> <p>You may not remember the shooting at Platte Canyon High School, only one child died. It was after Columbine High School and before Sandy Hook Elementary School. But the community of Bailey has not forgotten what happened 17 years ago and will never be the same. Our sense of safety was shattered that day.</p> <p>Every day, more than 120 people in the U.S. are killed with guns, twice as many are shot and wounded and countless others are impacted by acts of gun violence.</p> <p>How many communities does this number represent?</p> <p>Passing this commonsense gun law which prohibits firearms in sensitive locations such as schools, playgrounds, government buildings, etc. will be a step forward in making our communities safer. Guns don't belong in sensitive spaces.</p> <p>We need all the safe zones listed in SB24-131. We need to vote on this bill today. Please do not table it.</p>
<p>Richard Mack Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Richard Mack, I live in Centennial, CO. Thank you for reading/hearing my testimony today. I absolutely oppose this bill and I ask that you withdraw your support for SB24-0131 and vote to no.</p> <p>This bill ultimately punishes the larger majority of lawful gun owners and future gun owners. The very very small minority of people that want to kill, will find the means to cause harm. This bill does not address the true issue which stems from the spiritual and mental health of the perpetrators.</p>

	<p>Those with ill intent will still find ways to obtain weapons through illegal means. Law-abiding citizens, however, will be left defenseless against potential threats to their safety and their families.</p> <p>Instead of infringing on constitutional rights, we should focus on enforcing existing gun laws. Swift and speedy trials with harsh punishments are true deterrents. Instead cases are drawn out and the general public often forgets what crime had been committed. Probably in some cases, the defendant probably has too. You should not punish responsible gun owners for the actions of a few bad actors.</p> <p>This bill will do nothing but help know where the perpetrators they can commit crimes without the deterrent of not knowing if there private citizens that could impede or prevent the crime. Expanding the safe gun free zone will do nothing but increase the number of places that criminals can attack unarmed citizens.</p> <p>It is not the guns, it is the people behind them. Work on solutions that address the mental health of the criminals that are committing these crimes, not the law abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you, Richard Mack 153 E Panama Dr Centennial, CO 80121</p>
<p>Erik Kreider Against themself</p>	<p>How is it that the anti-gun establishment seeks to make spaces that psychopaths target more vulnerable in an effort to defend them? Should not they seek to strengthen and harden sensitive spaces against such crime? The most common sense indicates the fence keeps the foxes out of the chicken coop. Only idiots remove the fence.</p> <p>Legal prohibition never works – any psycho with half a brain fundamentally understands targeting a sensitive space where he knows the inhabitants cannot mount a defense is exactly the location he'll seek to target.</p>

	<p>How is it politicians fail to realize this most basic logic?</p> <p>The criminal mind will apply this most basic of logical argument precisely to target sensitive spaces because he seeks adequate self preservation to commit the maximum heinous impact.</p> <p>An armed society, is a polite society. It's that simple.</p> <p>The fools we have here in office writing these bills obviously don't understand the very laws that are already state statutes. Why is it necessary to prohibit possession of firearms in courts when that's already a law? Many of the 'sensitive spaces' defined in this inane bill already have limitations on possession of firearms.</p> <p>We deserve better than firearm illiterates governing the application of our second amendment, which is only second because it must back up the First, which is the most important in our Bill of Rights.</p> <p>The Second Amendment was not crafted to guarantee the rights of citizens to hunt or use firearms for sporting purposes. The Second, is so, explicitly to balance the power of the people against an overreaching, freedom-infringing, authoritarian government. The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights acts as a warning to politicians who seek to legislate oppression. Prohibition of the citizenry from ownership of weapons that can provide a measure of balance to the power of the military is a direct and historically substantiated prerequisite of systemic oppression.</p> <p>Politicians who seek to solve social ills should propose legislation against the misuse of such instruments, not outright prohibition, which history consistently demonstrates never works where the criminal mind is involved.</p> <p>This and other related gun-control bills that have been created by firearm illiterate politicians are liberty infringing gambits extracted directly from the authoritarian's handbook and will not be tolerated by citizen patriots who value the United States Constitution and it's Bill of Rights.</p>
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<p>Cynthia Dozier Against themselves</p>	<p>Good morning, I am writing in opposition to SB24-131. This bill will only put more people at risk as criminals will know that certain places and groups are unprotected and vulnerable to their criminal intent to do harm. Please reconsider the consequences of this bill and give law-abiding citizens the freedom to protect themselves and others. Also, re-direct your efforts towards helping the mentally ill and keeping criminals off the streets. Thank you.</p>
<p>Avery Polacek For themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I want to state my extreme support for this bill. I grew up in Colorado and am now raising my two young children here. I am terrified for their future, and terrified that future may be cut short by gun violence. I want to take my children to the playground, or the Christmas parade, without being on constant alert for a gun or an active shooting situation. I want to send my children to school without worrying that their teacher is secretly carrying a weapon that may or may not be properly secured.</p> <p>I absolutely support prohibiting firearms in sensitive spaces. This bill makes it more likely that my 4 and 6 year old will survive to adulthood and not face gun violence in their daily lives.</p> <p>Thank you, Avery Polacek</p>
<p>Heidi Wilbur For themselves</p>	<p>Chairperson Gonzales and Members of the Committee, my name is Heidi Wilbur and I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 24-131. I am a resident of Denver (House District 7). I am an attorney and a mother of two elementary school-aged boys. They are the reason I am providing this testimony today as my family spends a lot of time in places like early childhood schools, parks, playgrounds, stadiums, libraries, museums, and zoos. Yet many of these places are not as protected from gun violence as they could be.</p> <p>With firearms being the leading cause of death for children in the US, my young kids have already been taught at school how to stop bleeding from a gunshot wound. That burden should not fall on children. It is our job to protect them.</p>

	<p>In Bruen, the United States Supreme Court explicitly recognized the longstanding and lawful tradition of prohibiting firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings. It also affirmed that modern regulations prohibiting the carry of firearms in new and analogous sensitive places do not violate the Second Amendment.</p> <p>The sensitive places listed in SB 24-131 have been historically recognized in state, local, and federal legislation as places where firearms should not be carried. For example, in 1824, the University of Virginia prohibited weapons or arms of any kind on campus. James Madison, who authored the Second Amendment, was present when this rule was issued and made no objection. In 1870, Texas prohibited carrying firearms in churches, schools, or any public assembly. In 1883, Missouri passed a similar law. In 1901, Arizona prohibited the carrying of firearms in churches, schools, shows, public exhibitions, and any place where intoxicating liquors are sold. There are over 100 laws dating back to the 1800s from states, localities, and the federal government prohibiting the carrying of firearms in parks.</p> <p>Colorado citizens should be able to feel safe bringing their families to parks, schools, stadiums, libraries, and hospitals without worrying about gun violence. I ask for your yes vote on this bill to remove guns from spaces where they don't belong.</p>
<p>Tiffany Taylor Against themselves</p>	<p>Warren V District of Columbia and 2 other Court cases the court ruled police do not have a constitutional duty to provide services to individuals. Fear as scary as that feeling feels doesnt allow you to infringe on our inalienable right. Which is why I am my own first responder, and protector first and foremost. Police can not always be there for you! This bill infringes upon the Second Amendment right to bear arms, as it restricts law-abiding citizens' ability to carry firearms in public places for self-defense. This violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by arbitrarily discriminating against law-abiding citizens who wish to carry firearms for self-defense in certain public places. This bill unfairly targets a specific group of individuals based on their exercise of a constitutional right, without sufficient justification or evidence of a rational basis for the discrimination. This bill poses an undue burden on the fundamental right to self-defense without providing adequate alternative means of protection in these public spaces. I just heard a bill in committee earlier on the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses but here we are taking away their ability to conceal carry. All the bills for gun legislation in Colorado this session do is make people more vulnerable by making even softer targets via gun</p>

	<p>free zones. Disarming law abiding citizens, specifically the next generation all the while banning guards or officers in schools that could protect our children. None of these bills are good for Colorado please vote NO on.</p> <p>SB24-131</p>
<p>Huey Laugesen Against Colorado State Shooting Association</p>	<p>My name is Huey Laugesen and I am the executive director of the Colorado State Shooting Association (the state association of the NRA). I submit this testimony on behalf of our members in all 64 of Colorado's counties to strongly oppose this bill. I will start by sharing an excerpt from an op-ed written by our organization's vice president.</p> <p>"On December 29th, 2019, 71-year-old Jack Wilson had a bad feeling about a conspicuous-looking man in a long coat who entered his church in Texas. As that man approached a communion server, pulled a shotgun out of his coat and began firing, Wilson was already reaching for his own firearm.</p> <p>Aiming at the attacker, Wilson waited for the moment that he had a clear line of fire absent of bystanders. When that moment came, Wilson fired one round and eliminated the threat.</p> <p>Two congregants were tragically killed in this senseless act of violence committed by the man in the coat. But thanks to Wilson's heroism, it all ended before the culprit could claim more lives. How many more innocent people would have perished if Wilson wasn't armed and ready to respond?</p> <p>A previous event similar to this one suggests that the death toll could've been far greater. In fact, Wilson was only permitted to carry the firearm that he used to take down the shooter because the State of Texas, in response to a 2017 Sutherland Springs church shooting which left 26 dead, had recently changed its laws to allow gun owners to carry handguns inside houses of worship.</p> <p>Texas did this to enable good people to defend innocent lives. Jack Wilson showed us that it was the right decision."</p>

	<p>We the People have a right to carry firearms given to us by God, enshrined in our Constitution, and affirmed by the Supreme Court's Bruen ruling.</p> <p>Esteemed members of the committee: you are faced with an important decision. To attempt to revoke the right of good people to defend themselves and others, or to affirm it.</p> <p>Do the right thing and vote "NO" on this infringement of our rights. History is watching.</p>
<p>Corinne Kerkezian Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello, I am a trans woman and am adamantly opposed to this bill as it will make much more difficult for minority groups like trans people such as myself to feel safe. This proposition only punishes lawful citizens and especially marginalized people as it does nothing but increase risk for those who choose to help ensure their safety and the safety of those around the concealed carrier. Criminals and extremists will focus on easy targets, of which this piece of proposed legislation will make many more. With the rise of right wing extremism in America at large and even in our own communities in Colorado this proposed legislation as well as the proposed assault weapons ban are in extremely naive and poor taste. These would do nothing but further compromise the safety and security of communities targeted by these conservative extremist groups by limiting the marginalized citizen's ability to protect themselves and those around them. Please look up the rhetoric many of these extremists increasingly use, it is the language of extreme violence and hate. Many of these extremists openly state their desire to murder queer people such as myself. Please help ensure the safety of the LGBT+ community and other marginalized communities in our state by opposing this legislation.</p>
<p>Daniel Foster Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senator Rodriguez, Please defeat SB24-131. Many evil people have been stopped in all of the places on this bill merely because a concealed carry licensed law-abiding citizen showed the evil one a weapon aimed in his direction. Most of these evil people are cowards and turn and run. Ask any security guard and they will verify. All this bill accomplishes is to let evil ones know it is safe for them do evil acts in these places which just happen to be places many rapes, kidnappings, and shootings occur! I am in favor of HB24-1174. My instructor required a trip to shoot before granting anyone in our class the license and that makes sense to me. Another bill HB24-1310 is another that most definitely needs to be defeated. Again, it says to all wanting to shoot people, "Come in here, no one will have a weapon."</p>

	Or at least you can know where they are and go to the other end of the building to start mowing people down. Thank you!
<p>Katherine Czukas For themselves</p>	<p>Esteemed committee members,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Czukas, I live in Colorado Springs, where I have school aged children. Thank you for taking the time to hear from citizens about SB24-131. I am in favor of this bill.</p> <p>Over the past 15 years, my children have attended both pre-school and summer programs at UCCS, our local university. The pikes peak library district is a place our family feels comfortable spending time, whether studying, reading, gaming or creating at the maker space.</p> <p>My children attended public schools in Academy District 20. These are spaces where currently concealed carry of firearms is allowed or is being considered. Please help protect all children from adults who could potentially mis-use their concealed firearm in these sensitive spaces.</p> <p>Since 2020, I've had the honor of being an election judge in El Paso County. I am a temporary worker for the county, working long hours in VSPCs alongside other temporary workers. Temporary workers staff VSPCs for the "neediest" 1 percent of voters - those with challenges to the mail-out ballot system - due to dexterity or vision issues, challenging residential addresses, or having situations where they are new to the Colorado voting process. VSPCs serve them all.</p> <p>In a county of 700,000 people, we have dozens of VSPCs, many are in public county buildings where concealed carry is allowed.</p> <p>Concealed carry is allowed in a polling place.</p> <p>Temporary workers charged with upholding democracy are working where another citizen could be bringing in a weapon and potentially mis-using it. This doesn't make sense, it endangers election judges and the election process.</p> <p>Please I urge you to pass legislation to keep firearms out of sensitive spaces like VSPCs, county buildings, libraries, universities and public schools.</p>

	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Kathleen Troka For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representative</p> <p>Currently in D20 our BOE members are trying to institute the FASTER program into our schools. I think this is a foolhardy option, especially when these same Board members, Aaron Salt, Amy Shandy, Derrick Wilburn, Nicole Konz and Lauren Yanez didn't support the MLO at our last election which would have provided the funds to pay additional trained SROs. It is my belief they are trying to funnel tax dollars into private institutions. In addition, I believe it is foolhardy to expect individuals to complete 3 days of training and be qualified to police our halls armed. Teachers shouldn't have the additional responsibility of carry arms when they are emotionally invested in their students and already over worked and underpaid. How will we get insurance from our schools? Who will pay for the expensive firearms and ammunition? Who will inspect said firearms? Please vote YES for SB24-131. Please, listen to parents of students, not the gun lobbyists. Thank you</p>
<p>Zachary Perrego Against themselves</p>	<p>To my elected representatives,</p> <p>I am writing to express my staunch opposition to this bill.</p> <p>The supreme court has decided long ago that law enforcement has no duty to protect the public. Therefore, stripping law abiding citizens of the ability to protect themselves in these so-called "sensitive" spaces is wholly incorrect.</p> <p>Unless the state is to provide private, armed security while in these places, free of charge to the citizens, then I see no way you can expect to strip them of their rights to defend themselves.</p> <p>Time and time again we see that law abiding concealed carry citizens stop an active shooter long before law enforcement is able to arrive at the scene, as we can see in the Indiana mall shooting (https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/what-we-know-about-the-armed-civilian-who-killed-greenwood-gunman) and the Texas church shooting (https://abcnews.go.com/US/parishioner-</p>

	<p>gunned-texas-church-shooter-hero/story?id=67982047) recently. To disregard these situations is frankly dangerous to your constituents.</p> <p>I urge you to vote down this bill to protect your constituent's rights to defend themselves.</p> <p>Best regards, Zachary Perrego</p>
<p>Brent Sallee Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello. I am pursuing my concealed handgun permit because I have found that my local police (CSPD) are unable to respond to serious calls in a timely manner. There have been several events where 911 is unable to dispatch to very serious incidents, including those of obvious violent threats. These have told me that the police are unable to assist me in life or death situations. I myself have been placed on hold with 911 for > 45 minutes at least 3 times. These events involved an drunk driver, suspected dead individual, and a near-hit of my toddler by illegal ATVs in an open space. I find these to be serious enough to warrant a prompter response.</p> <p>Further historical examples include a complete lack of response of police to respond to a hostage situation, resulting in murder of that hostage https://www.9news.com/article/news/crime/colorado-springs-police-didnt-respond-911-hostage-report/73-be504fb8-7432-4587-b638-c9f6faa90978). Another example is that of a woman calling 911 to report an unstable man carrying a rifle and threatening people. The man with the rifle ended up killing a bicyclist in cold blood (https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/woman-warned-man-rifle-colorado-shooting-n457711). These are unacceptable and potentially avoidable with licensed gun holders, who know the scope of the law, available to act.</p> <p>As a result, I have pursued my CHP to allow me to be a timely defender of my home and family wherever we go. The bill proposed goes beyond reasonable restriction. There are currently sufficient restrictions in place, prohibiting carrying into courthouses, government buildings, and schools. These are set as law already. Expanding that list nullifies the ability of a licensed and registered, law abiding citizen to protect himself or others under dire situations. Criminals will not abide by these laws and sensitive spaces will continue to experience gun violence. Law abiding concealed handgun permit holders are responsible for an extremely low percentage of</p>

	<p>actual gun violence and a lower percentage of illegal bodily harm. Expansion of sensitive places was just attempted in CA and, in part, blocked by a federal judge (https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/20/us/california-gun-law/index.html). These expansions go beyond what is legal and only limit those who follow law.</p> <p>With this, I urge you to vote against this new bill severely restricting law-abiding gun owners with a license to carry from protecting themselves and others from dangerous individuals.</p>
<p>Dee Fleming Against themselves</p>	<p>The Constitution specifically addresses my right to carry a firearm. My right shall not be infringed.</p> <p>These 'gun laws' simply make targets of citizens. Criminals tend to ignore them. Please stop trying to legislate away my rights because these are some gun deaths. For example, there are vehicle deaths. I see no planned legislation to remove vehicles and shut down the car lots that sell them.</p> <p>To summarize, stop attempting to take my rights away. They are not the government's to take away.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Susan Enfield For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chair Gonzales and Committee members,</p> <p>I'm a longtime resident, voter, and constituent submitting this testimony supporting SB24-131, Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces.</p> <p>Enhancing public safety is our government and community's primary goal and responsibility. This bill is a common-sense step in the right direction. Legal restrictions on carrying firearms in bars exist in 32 states, including TX, SD, ND, KY, FL, and AK.</p> <p>I'm also concerned firearms are allowed (including concealed carry) on campus at CU Boulder, where my 22-year-old son is a student. My son, other students, faculty, and staff should not have to worry about safety while attending class and learning sometimes controversial topics.</p> <p>I urge you to vote yes on SB-131.</p>

	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak up about this important public safety matter.</p> <p>Susan Enfield</p>
<p>Zachary Perrego Against themselves</p>	<p>To my elected representatives,</p> <p>I oppose this bill, I think churches in particular are vulnerable spaces and deserve to be hard targets and not the soft targets as this bill would make them.</p> <p>We have heard from the Supreme Court that local law enforcement have no duty to protect the public, so it is completely wrong to strip the private citizen of their ability to protect themselves.</p> <p>We can see from the Indiana mall shooting (https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/what-we-know-about-the-armed-civilian-who-killed-greenwood-gunman) as well as the Texas church shootings (https://abcnews.go.com/US/parishioner-gunned-texas-church-shooter-hero/story?id=67982047) that good citizens with guns stop bad guys with guns well before law enforcement are able to arrive. Please take these real life examples into account.</p> <p>Best regards, Hailey B. Perrego</p>
<p>Cara Goman For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill because I believe fewer guns circulating, especially in these sensitive spaces, will keep our community safer and save lives.</p> <p>I agree that it is just common sense — It’s time to actively work to reduce gun violence and our culture’s obsession with firearms.</p>

	<p>I am a parent of three children, two in elementary school and one toddler. This bill is in an important step in ensuring their future safety.</p>
<p>Dave Jensen Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing in opposition to SB24-131.</p> <p>The right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to Americans. The Second Amendment was not intended for hunting, but rather to deter bad people, organizations, and governments from acting unbecomingly.</p> <p>Limiting where law-abiding can carry doesn't reduce crime ... it encourages it! This bill creates safe places for criminals and dangerous places for everyone else.</p> <p>Constitutional carry should be the law of the land. Until then, citizens who have earned concealed carry permits must be allowed to carry as often as possible.</p> <p>I sincerely hope you'll consider my perspective and my Constitutional Rights,</p> <p>Dave Jensen</p>
<p>Robert Bonnell Against themselves</p>	<p>I am informing you of my opposition to SB24-131.</p> <p>Shouldn't churches and businesses have a say on firearms on their premises? The state should not dictate that to churches and businesses. My church prefers to have armed members and we have had no issues with that.</p> <p>Sorry to say there is no such thing as a Safe zone.</p> <p>If gun free zones worked there would never have been school shootings. Do you really think a law is going to keep criminals from engaging in criminal activity in churches and businesses? By their very definition they ignore laws. Only law abiding citizens obey laws so you will make my church and local businesses less safe if this bill becomes law. Also, if guns were to be banned, sick minds would find a more deadly way to carry out their evil acts. Explosives, poison gas, and numerous other means are at sick people's disposal thanks to the internet.</p> <p>I am a retired law enforcement officer in both Indiana and Colorado so I do know a little about how the criminal mind works. Please reconsider this bill as it is bad for churches and businesses.</p>

	<p>Robert Michael Bonnell</p>
<p>Tyler Weinischke Against themselves</p>	<p>SB24-131 if passed would change the casualties found in tragedies. Most law enforcement agencies have communicated publicly that their response time will vary depending on the incident called in. Let me paint a picture.</p> <p>The church is open to the public, it's a space we desire for people to feel they can come to when in need. It's open for drug addicts, alcoholics, abusive husbands, abusive moms to come seek help for when they feel like they have been unjustly given court orders. They come in potentially under the influence or enraged because they just received information that will change their life in a traumatic way. They come into the church with anger and the person who makes contact calls 9-1-1. IF it is not an immediate threat the police will respond based on the calls that are currently active. Let's say it is someone under the influence. Police has been notified, but it is not a top priority. The person who came in looking for help becomes enraged, they begin to get loud and aggressive. Verbal de-escalation is doing nothing and now it has become a physical altercation. Police are still not on their way. What now? How are you expecting for us to trust that police will be there? They are stretched thin and unable to respond in a timely manner.</p> <p>Look at Uvalde, Nashville or Lakewood. All of which had a range in response time that added to the casualties that occurred in each incident. Look at Uvalde and Nashville and imagine if you had an on-site security team member, who is trained. What would the outcome be? I can imagine you might say well "Lakewood had police on-campus at the time of the incident." Looking at that footage my faith in law enforcement was broken, it showed that the men and women in blue, who I respect, do not have training to deal with an active shooter, or the man power to be everywhere at once.</p> <p>The solution is not to eliminate people's ability to protect. The solution is to allow people to "keep and bear arms." as a father you are asking me to trust and believe that those who have taken an oath will be there when I need them. That's a big ask. That's something that I can not give up. Agencies nation wide are saying they are having a decline in swearing in new officers and new recruits as well as not being allotted the appropriate budget or time to give sufficient training. Uvalde is a prime example. They have said</p>

	<p>unanimously, "We weren't trained for this..." I strongly encourage you to vote AGAINST the passing of SB24-131.</p>
<p>Ronald Cable Against themselves</p>	<p>This Bill is clearly contrary SCOTUS's decision regarding "District of Columbia v. Heller " in that it refutes the Court's finding that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,". I request and urge therefore, that this Bill be defeated.</p>
<p>Tyler Burgett Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I write to you today as a husband, a father of two girls with a son on the way, an Arapahoe county concealed handgun permit holder, and member of my church safety team.</p> <p>I would ask that you not proceed with SB24-131. At a time when police departments around the state are short staffed, more gun free zones are only going to embolden criminals.</p> <p>Recently two armed criminals robbed and pistol whipped a family in the parking lot of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Thankfully the dad had ignored the sign posted at the doors of the museum which prohibits the carrying of firearms, and was able to defend himself and his family with a concealed handgun.</p> <p>CNN has reported that 11:00am on Sunday is one of the most dangerous hours in America. Across the country, communities of faith are being targeted for violence.</p> <p>Senate Bill 2 in California, of which this bill is nearly a carbon copy, was struck down by U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney. Judge Carney noted in his response that people who legally carry guns are "among the most reliable and law-abiding citizens" and they have been through a "vigorous vetting and training process."</p> <p>It is a fact that concealed handgun permit holders are not out causing crime or violence in our communities here in Colorado. Beyond making criminals out of trusted citizens that have submitted themselves for additional screening by law enforcement, I do not understand what this bill seeks to do. It will not prevent crime, it will prevent communities from protecting themselves.</p> <p>To save our cash strapped state from losing the costly legal battle that California has already lost, and to better protect our houses of worship and communities, I would ask you to not proceed with this bill.</p> <p>Respectfully, Tyler Burgett</p>

<p>Greg Trough Against themselves</p>	<p>To ban the carrying of firearms anywhere offers a soft target for those that would do harm. Assault, robbery, vandalism and death is invited. We, the people, have the right to defend ourselves anywhere and everywhere.</p> <p>Another law to be overturned and put shame on Colorado and the General Assembly.</p>
<p>Joseph Clark Against themselves</p>	<p>As a conceal carry permit approved citizen, I do not agree with limiting my right to protect myself and my family in "sensitive spaces". Crime is high and I reserve the right to protect myself in public. This is nothing more than another restriction against law abiding citizens, as none of your shooting issues come from those of us who follow the law and quietly go about our business peacefully. Not to mention these kinds of restrictions have been shut down as unconstitutional before. This is another example of wasting state resources on a law that will guarantee legal challenges and spend more tax payer money trying to fight in court.</p>
<p>Steven Thatcher Against themselves</p>	<p>SB24-131 is blatantly illegal and unconstitutional. The United States Supreme Court made this abundantly clear in the Bruen decision. The Supreme Court affirmed that the ability to concealed carry in public is a right protected by the 2nd Amendment. They could not have been more clear in their ruling. Either the Colorado legislature is dumb (and subsequently unfit for duty) or they just don't care about the Law. It is another vain attempt to by the party in power to wield their club against those they disagree with. It is nothing more than an attempt to demonize firearms and firearm owners in the State of Colorado. It has ZERO to do with the safety of our communities.</p> <p>Removing the right for law abiding citizens to lawfully concealed carry only empowers those who want to perform acts of evil against our communities. This bill will make all Colorado churches, grocery stores, parks, theaters, stadiums, schools, etc. soft targets overnight as criminals will be emboldened to commit mass murder knowing the first line of defense has been removed. LAW ABIDING CITIZENS CONCEALED CARRYING ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MASS SHOOTINGS. There is ZERO statistical data anywhere that supports the underlying assumption of this bill.</p> <p>How do you plan to enforce this law? Will State police officers be present as every church and park checking citizens to see if they carrying a firearm? Do you honestly think Officers will waste their time performing an duty that flies in the face of the sacred Oath they took to defend the US Constitution? I will not comply. I will continue</p>

	<p>to carry in your "sensitive places" in order to protect myself and my family.</p> <p>As a Catholic, I and numerous other Catholic parishioners and parishes across the State have been targeted as a result of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Our parishes have been vandalized repeatedly with death threats sent to parishioners, our pastors, and our schools. Why wouldn't we take these threats seriously? Our right to worship is protected by the 1st Amendment and the 1st Amendment is protected by 2nd.</p> <p>Do your job and Vote NO. Or face the ultimate embarrassment of having to be re-educated on basic Constitutional law by Alito and Thomas. WE WILL NOT COMPLY.</p>
<p>Charles Cooper Against himself</p>	<p>I testify to oppose this bill. This bill if proceeded with will just make these "Safe" places soft targets, and an inviting target for criminals and evil to attack. Churches and Colleges should be the safest most inviting environments. If this bill passes there will be more attacks. Please hear all of the people opposing this bill and find it in your heart to not pass this bill. Unlike what you have done with the Assault Weapons Ban. Thank you.</p>
<p>Joseph Gress Against himself</p>	<p>I ask that the committee kill this ban on law abiding citizens legally carrying firearms for our protection in more locations. We have seen over the last 20 years that when places are declared "gun free zones" that is exactly where mentally ill, criminal monsters go to hurt people. They people don't want to have a challenge and bravely fight against others that can defend themselves. They want as high a body count as possible to get fame the only way that their twisted minds believe that they can. So they go to "gun free zones" where they know that there will be a delay at least before they face armed opposition.</p> <p>This legislation will do nothing to prevent people willing to commit the crime of murder from carrying arms into these places, but it will make it harder for people that want to defend themselves, their friends and family, and anyone around them. And it will reduce the deterrence effect that our concealed carry laws provide whereby criminals can't know if they are the only armed people in a given place. So rather than making law abiding citizens safer in these "Sensitive Spaces" it will make them less safer.</p>

	<p>I am reminded of the shooting at the Boulder King Soopers 3 years ago. The killer was living in Arvada, but drove all the way to Boulder to indiscriminately kill people in a grocery store. Why? he passed by many other grocery stores and even other King Soopers. However the odds of a private citizen carrying a firearm and able to defend themselves was much lower in Boulder than Arvada.</p> <p>Or the Walmart shooting in Thorton more than 6 years ago, where tragically 3 people died, but facing the immediate response of multiple concealed carrying citizens the criminal fled from the scene rather than facing them. There were concerns about how long it took police to clear the scene because of the legally armed citizens at the scene, but that was far better than facing additional deaths.</p> <p>I also remember the New Life Church shooting more than 16 years ago when the criminal was stopped by a member of the church and church security team because she was armed. Do we really want to make her actions illegal and allow the criminal the opportunity to kill more defenseless people?</p> <p>Please for the safety of ourselves and our families, vote no on SB24-131.</p>
<p>Timothy Dyer Against themselves</p>	<p>Please OPPOSE SB124-131!</p> <p>This does nothing to prevent violent crime and prevents the good guys with guns from stopping crime. This is also goes against the separation of church and state. Remember that criminals will not obey the law and will stop at nothing to accomplish their evil deeds. Thank you for listening.</p>
<p>Richard bryce Amend themselves</p>	<p>As a researcher, father, husband, independent voter, and homeowner in Westminster with a concealed handgun permit from Jefferson County:</p> <p>The bill's mention of "Public Park" is overly broad. Does it include State Parks where I may need protection while hiking? Public parks are vital locations for self-defense against violent criminals.</p> <p>"Publicly Owned Park" lacks clarity. Who owns it? Municipalities, Colorado state, or federal government? This ambiguity is constitutionally vague.</p>

	<p>"Gatherings and Public Assemblies" are critical for exercising self-defense rights.</p> <p>Ambiguity in "Failure to post signage" leaves CHP holders vulnerable without clarity on who's at fault.</p> <p>"Museums, etc." and "Libraries" are places where self-defense is crucial, as evidenced by recent incidents.</p> <p>Please remove these locations from the bill or vote NO.</p>
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To the Colorado General Assembly,

My name is Orion Capela. Today, I would like to urge you to vote for **SB24-131**, which prohibits carrying firearms, both openly and concealed, in sensitive and public spaces.

I would also like to share a little bit about myself to explain why I think this bill is important. I am a current student at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. I was also born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Eight months before I was born, the Columbine shooting occurred. I have lived my entire life under the threat of a school shooting reoccurring, and on February 16th, 2024, it finally happened.

However, schools are not the only places where gun violence occurs. In 2012, a shooter opened fire in a movie theater in Aurora, Denver. In 2015, a mass shooting occurred at the Planned Parenthood a mile from my home, which is the same Planned Parenthood that provides me access to medication, like birth control and needles for my hormone replacement therapy. In 2022, yet another mass shooting occurred at Club Q, the only gay bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There are almost no areas of public life that have not been threatened by gun violence in Colorado, so my question to you is how many more people have to die to prove that something needs to be done?

The only one of these shootings that occurred under a legal weapon ban was the Columbine Shooting. The 1994-2004 Federal Assault Weapons Ban was fraught with various legal challenges, and there is currently little to no research that proves it had any impact on the rates of gun violence. This new bill, however, has the capacity to be more protective because the proposed ban is not linked to bullet carrying capacity and there is a legal precedent with HB22-1086, The Vote Without Fear Act, passed in 2022.

Samuel Knopp and Celie Rain Montgomery should still be alive. Daniel Aston, Kelly Loving, Raymond Green Vance, Ashley Paugh, and Derrick Rump should still be alive. Jennifer Markovsky, Garrett Swasey, and Ke'Arre M. Stewart should still be alive. Rebecca Ann Wingo, Alex Matthew Sullivan, Alexander Jonathan Boik, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, Jessica Ghawi, Gordon Cowden, Micayla Medek, Jonathan Blunk, Jesse E. Childress, John Thomas Larimer, Matt McQuinn, and Alexander C. Teves should still be alive. Rachel Scott, Daniel Rohrbough, William David Sanders, Kyle Velasquez, Steven Curnow, Cassie Bernall, Isaiah Shoels, Matthew Kechter, Lauren Townsend, John Tomlin, Kelly Fleming, Daniel Mauser, and Corey DePooter should still be alive today. While this list of thirty-five people may seem too long, I want to remind everyone that the list of names of all victims of gun violence throughout the state of Colorado is much, much larger.

Today I want to remind you of the life saving power you hold as the Colorado General Assembly. If you truly are sworn to serve your constituents, should that not also entail preventing their murder? If you are capable of restricting guns to protect the democratic process, you should be equally capable, and more importantly, responsible, for restricting guns to protect the lives of people living in a democratic society. Our lives don't only matter when we are voting you into office, our lives matter when we spend time with our friends, when we want to get an education, and when we want access to medical resources. This bill allows us to take one step closer to protecting those special moments. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I urge you to vote in favor of ***SB24-131***.

Sincerely,

Orion Capela

March 10, 2024

Written Testimony: SB24-131

Submitted by: Paige Leonard, Boulder

Thank you Committee Members for reading my testimony in support of SB24-131, "Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces."

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), gun-related injuries became the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in 2020. This statistic is sobering and sickening to any parent, only fueling our anxiety for the safety of our children.

Parents want a law that prohibits the open carrying of firearms in sensitive places. We shouldn't have to worry about encountering a person with a firearm when we take our kids to a playground, go to the zoo, or a sporting event. When my kids want to go to a Rockies game, my first thought is, "is it safe?" This shouldn't have to be our first thought. Allowing guns into parks where children play, at college and school campuses and places of worship puts us ALL at risk.

Let's join other states that have made prohibiting firearms in sensitive places a priority.

- 32 states have restricted firearms in bars
- 18 states have laws restricting firearms in places of worship
- 15 states have restrictions on the carrying of firearms in childcare facilities and facilities primarily serving children
- 16 states protect their hospitals and medical offices from the carrying of weapons in those facilities

You have the opportunity to make Colorado a safer state to live in. Please vote YES on SB24-131 and keep firearms out of sensitive places, especially for children and families. Thank you for your time and commitment to improving the safety of our community.

The cities with the most gun laws in this county also have the highest amount of gun crime, gun laws do not work. Locking up people committing crimes works, enforce the laws already on the books and do not over legislate people. Criminals do not, by definition follow the law. The second amendment was written not curtail citizens access to firearms but to prevent governments intrusion on my right and responsibility to protect myself, my family and my fellow countrymen. "Shall not be infringed" is clear.

Colorado does not have a legal gun owner problem; it has a violent criminal problem. Lock criminals up the violence goes down. When someone is caught driving drunk, we don't punish the car manufacture or the distiller, we punish the person. Guns are not the problem criminals are.

Senate Judiciary

03/20/2024 01:30 PM

SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Melody Connett For themselves	Please vote in favor of this bill. Families need to feel secure when attending certain places, such as parks, museums, stadiums, etc. I know bad people will not always be deterred by laws...but I also know that continuing to do the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome is a measure of insanity. Please vote yes. Thank you.
Gena Magill For themselves	My name is Gena Magill, I am a resident of Fort Collins and I would like to voice my strong support for SB24-131 bill. I encourage the committee to vote Yay for this important legislation.
Ralph Goble Against themselves	If this bill passes it will virtually eliminate my ability to protect myself and my family. It is a known fact that those who wish to do harm will not obey any law that is passed. They are considered criminals because they ignore the existing and future laws passed. Those of us that have carry permits do so for the protection of self and others, Had there been someone with a carry permit in Boulder at the grocery store, or the other places of shootings the number of casualties would have been lower. Those who wish to do harm look for "Safe Zones" to do their deed, as they do not want to be confronted. According to John Lott there are over a million times a year the a armed person with a carry permit stops a shooting.
Dawn Doty For themselves	Dear Honorable Representatives, I am writing in strong support of SB24-131, I teach college students at the University of Colorado - Boulder. I have been in class for active shooter incidents near campus, including

	<p>the King Soopers tragedy, and I see the fear in students' eyes as these take place.</p> <p>Guns have been the leading cause of death for American children and teens since 2020, impacting the lives of young people at home, at school and in their communities.</p> <p>A gun sense law like this proposal is responsible. Can't we all agree that there are places where guns should and should not be?</p> <p>We are not advocating for guns to be banned just for guns to be banned in key public places like schools, day care, bars, college campuses, etc.</p> <p>I see the fear in students' eyes when an emergency alert pops up on their laptop in class. Let's erase this fear for kids in Colorado. We can make gun sense laws!</p> <p>Sincerely, Dawn Doty</p>
<p>Craig Bauer Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello. To be fast and frank. The second Ammendment is not negotiable and disarmament is an act of treason and war against the American People as outlined in the second Ammendment justifier of "necessary for the security of the free State". This is not negotiable and all precursor treasonous actions of legislation including federal are acts of treason by the conspiratorial individuals acting outside their constitutional constraints. I recommend all persons who actively pursue this and other Unconstitutional legislation be prosecuted as traitors and/conspiirators against constitutional united states people per title 18. United states code, subsection 241 labeled "Conspiracy Against Rights", and other Laws to punish traitors. Arbitrary designation of sensitive spaces will be manufactured by person's disloyal to their oath to the constitution; as this bill already expressed dishonor upon those who have written it. Are you prepared as democrats to lose your voting privileges in an Unconstitutional usa? The one youre trying to create right now in your usual actions of betrayal of your oaths of office that undermine the constitutionality of the operating tax regime? The collapse would be epic and the blood fueding in the streets would be spoken of for 10000 years.....</p>

<p>Eddie Patin Against themselves</p>	<p>This gun control bill is unconstitutional and will not stop gun crime. Criminals do not obey the law, and if you make a law banning certain firearms, etc., only law-abiding citizens will be restricted. The more you restrict law-abiding citizens, the bolder criminals will become in committing gun violence, as evidenced by all mass shootings that have attacked 'soft targets'.</p> <p>Oppose this unconstitutional bill and others like it. Gun control does not stop gun crime. Gun control only makes gun violence worse, and also prevents good people from enjoying their gun hobby, protecting themselves adequately, and violates peoples' rights. Anyone supporting this bill will be flagrantly opposing the Constitution and our American way of life. When enough people wake up to this and have had enough, you will be removed from office.</p>
<p>Beth DeHaven For themselves</p>	<p>All of the Sensitive Places that are listed in SB24-131 are places that will be safer when no firearms are allowed to be carried on the premises. Certainly daycare centers, libraries, and other places where our children and families often gather deserve extra protection from deadly violence. This bill is one of many that are needed to protect our communities. I ask for your yes vote.</p>
<p>Corinne Carpenter For themselves</p>	<p>I recently had to bring my youngest daughter (age 8) to Childrens Hospital for a scary procedure, I was already nervous about the procedure and outcome. I looked up as entering and noticed a new sign, firearms no longer allowed. I had always considered Childrens Hospital a safe place, but I felt like I was in even better competent hands when I saw that sign. No forced compliance, just this is best for our staff, community and patients. I started to wonder if other hospitals in the state offered this kind of protection. I was relieved that many are starting or moving to this stance. Also, that places like zoos and museums are also no longer allowing firearms.</p> <p>I truly wish ALL of the places I take my children offered that level of protection (schools, amusement parks, places of worship, and health centers, etc). I feel like it will slowly be common to do so, I would rather be part of a state that wants to be one of the first to offer this level of care rather than the last. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Charles Grandmaison Against themselves</p>	<p>How many lives will be lost, by the time armed help will arrive? HOW MANY !! any lives lost due to this bill if it passes will be on your hands if you sign it. That means , children, parents, adults, teachers anyone.</p>

	<p>You cant stop the mind that is intent on doing this shooting of any kind. And they will get there weapon even if you think you can stop it bye taking them from the market. If I can carry any place, that means any place, the person wanting to cause harm, will get one shot. Thats it. One shot, because the second shot will be for that person. If you don't allow teachers, to carry. THEN HOW MANY WILL DIE BEFORE HELP GETS THERE.. HOW MANY PUT THERE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS IF THEY DO BYE PASSING THIS PROPOSAL.</p>
<p>Frank Tapy For themselves</p>	<p>This message is being sent with a strong recommendation for a YES vote on SB24-131 to provide safe, gun-free locations for the people of Colorado. If the NRA talking point of "More guns make us safer." were even nearly true, the US would be the safest developed nation on the planet.</p> <p>Thousands of gun deaths per year shows exactly the opposite. Gun restrictions in other nations demonstrate that fewer guns equates to fewer gun deaths and injuries.</p> <p>Again, please vote in favor of SB24-131. Thank you.</p> <p>Frank Tapy</p>
<p>Jesse Montoya Against themselves</p>	<p>i am against these anti gun bills that you are pushing. All you are accomplishing is making it easier for the criminals to to arm themselves, and taking the rights away from the law bidding gun owners.</p> <p>It is a proven fact that more gun laws does not create less crime it creates more crime against people that cant protect them selves.</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation that seeks to ban concealed carry in sensitive places. As a law-abiding citizen and advocate for Second Amendment rights, I believe this bill represents an unwarranted infringement on our constitutional freedoms and would undermine the ability of responsible individuals to protect themselves and their loved ones.</p> <p>While I understand the desire to ensure public safety in certain locations, such as schools, government buildings, and places of worship, it is essential to recognize that law-abiding citizens who undergo rigorous background checks and training should not be arbitrarily prohibited from exercising their right to self-defense. Banning concealed carry in sensitive places creates so-called "gun-free zones" that, tragically, have been shown to attract criminals and leave law-abiding citizens defenseless in the face of violence.</p>

	<p>Moreover, it is important to note that individuals who obtain concealed carry permits have demonstrated a commitment to responsible firearm ownership and have undergone extensive training to ensure safe and lawful firearm use. Punishing these individuals by denying them the right to carry for self-defense in sensitive places not only undermines their constitutional rights but also fails to address the root causes of violence in our society.</p> <p>Additionally, the practical implications of implementing such a ban are deeply concerning. Law-abiding citizens who carry firearms for self-defense should not be unduly restricted from protecting themselves and their families in places where they may face heightened risks. Prohibiting concealed carry in sensitive places effectively denies individuals the ability to defend themselves in potentially dangerous situations, leaving them vulnerable to harm.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is worth emphasizing that responsible concealed carry permit holders are not the problem when it comes to gun violence. The focus should instead be on addressing mental health issues, improving law enforcement efforts to combat illegal firearms trafficking, and strengthening background check systems to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and those who pose a danger to society.</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge you to oppose this misguided bill banning concealed carry in sensitive places. Let us work together to uphold the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens and promote policies that enhance public safety without infringing on our fundamental freedoms.</p>
Janet Tapy For themselves	<p>Please vote in favor of SB24-131. As a public health nurse for 33 years, I am acutely aware of the immense harm that the people of Colorado have endured as a result of gun violence. Any legislation that can be passed, such as SB24-131, to mitigate the damage will be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Jan Tapy</p>
Amy Zwahlen For themselves	<p>This bill is important to me in addressing gun violence prevention in Colorado and I ask for your yes vote.</p>
David Voell Against	<p>President Biden left \$80 billion of AR 15s, semi-automatic hand guns, munitions, body armor, night vision and other weaponry in Afghanistan for terrorists Taliban, ISIS anyone to collect. President</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>Biden has allowed 9 million illegal invaders into the US homeland and no one knows who they are or where they are in Colorado and the US Homeland.</p> <p>Christopher Wray Director of the FBI tonight 3/12/2024 is warning of highly likely terrorist attacks inside the US. And this body of legislators has drafted law to cancel law abiding US citizens' 2nd Amendment rights to defend our person, family and friends. WHAT THE HECK IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? Your proposed legislation does nothing to criminals. All your proposed legislation will do is make millions of law abiding citizens into criminals.</p> <p>None of you were elected to cancel our rights to self-defense with weapons that are less than what terrorists and criminals are using. WHAT THE HECK IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?</p> <p>Do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>Amanda Ranard For themselves</p>	<p>I'm a Colorado resident and a mother of two young children. I support this bill because it prohibits carrying firearms in many of the places where my children and I go on a regular basis: daycare, the library, and parks. My children's safety is of the utmost importance to me, and by keeping firearms out of these spaces, we can help prevent unnecessary violence and injury.</p>
<p>Laura Jensen Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is a violation of the constitution that will put innocent civilians in danger. Data shows that the overwhelming majority of mass shootings occur in gun free zones. Law-abiding citizens MUST be able to protect themselves in all places.</p>
<p>Derek Ho Against themselves</p>	<p>Senate Bill 24-131 appears to be a backhanded attempt to violate Colorado Constitution Article II, Section 13 by limiting our right to self-defense. This will adversely impact oppressed minorities and women being stalked but do nothing to dissuade those who seek to press their wills on the powerless. Indeed, this will cause these miscreants to focus their attention on "sensitive spaces" since they will know their victims are less likely to possess the means to fight back.</p> <p>Proficient armed volunteers limited tragedy at New Life Church years ago and that scenario has been repeated in the years since. Criminals don't obey the law so anyone voting for this bill should be prepared</p>

	to face anyone who was pre-emptively disarmed and unable to protect themselves or others.
<p>Carol Callicotte For themselves</p>	<p>I don't sit with my back to the door in any restaurant or public place. I wear tennis shoes to the grocery store so I can run. I once left a movie theater because a young man came in alone with a large, bulky backpack.</p> <p>This is what it's like to live in this country, because we have so many guns and have allowed the gun industry to normalize the idea that guns belong everywhere. Guns in public places is not a civilized way to exist, and there is plenty of historical precedent for restricting guns in our shared spaces. 32 states restrict guns where alcohol is served – this is a no-brainer. 18 states restrict firearms in places of worship. Approximately 84% of the top 500 university campuses restrict guns on campus, making Colorado universities a dangerous outlier. We will encourage our kids to leave the state for their university education because of this. Beyond that, when we allow guns into places where there are crowds, where discussions or demonstrations may run hot, where children are present – the chances of those guns being used to do harm, because they are readily available, is too great. I've been a part of marches where the streets were populated with angry men carrying rifles, staring us down. No one should be threatened for acting on their 1st Amendment rights.</p> <p>The other side claims that all gun laws are unconstitutional. That mass shooters target gun-free zones. None of this is true. Mass shooters target places and people they know, and the large majority of mass shootings have taken place where guns are permitted. We have 25X the guns and 26X the gun homicides compared to our peer countries. Guns are not making us safer.</p> <p>Thank you for this bill. I urge a yes vote.</p>
<p>Don Neeley Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is unwise. Data has shown that shooters target gun-free zones knowing that there will be no one there to stop them. As crime has increased it is imperative that we allow citizens to protect themselves and their loved ones. This bill is also foolish in thinking that barring firearms from locations such as churches, without providing any alternate form of protection, makes those places safer. Recent data shows attacks in churches have increased significantly in the last few years. I serve on my church's Safety Team and our efforts</p>

	<p>to provide protection for our members and visitors is reassuring to our people. We are often thanked for keeping watch over our church knowing that it would be less likely for someone to come onto our grounds or into our building and being unobserved. Please vote NO on this bill.</p>
<p>Ryan Darras Against themselves</p>	<p>I was directed here from a petition for this bill that is widely misinformed. The petition is related to the shooting recently at The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, which is a horrible and tragic event that I wish would have never occurred, but the fact of the matter is that as details have come to light it became obvious that the shooter came onto campus with a malicious goal in mind.</p> <p>Choosing to ban firearms, concealed or otherwise, in certain areas would not have stopped this event from happening. Stronger security is a significantly better answer to this kind of problem rather than removing a student's ability to defend themselves.</p> <p>All the effort going towards eliminating firearms is simply going to disarm law-abiding citizens and leave them defenseless against those who don't care to follow the rule of law.</p>
<p>Justin Beard Against themselves</p>	<p>I OPPOSE this bill! Do you really believe law abiding citizens that go through the process to obtain a concealed carry permit are the ones committing crimes? This will only punish those gun owners who are NOT the problem and do nothing to stem actual criminals from continuing to carry wherever they please.</p> <p>And because the language in this bill effectively bans carry most everywhere (government property and adjacent spaces- so like the sidewalk??) how are citizens supposed to protect themselves? Can you guarantee police presence wherever I may be at any time of the day to protect me since I will not be able to protect myself?</p>
<p>Joshua Barnett Against themselves</p>	<p>Simply banning firearms from campuses or any space really will not prevent mass shootings. It will not accomplish anything besides disarming citizens who are protected by the second amendment, and take away rights from people who are responsible with guns. I urge the committee to seriously consider whether the gun is the actual problem or the person who committed is. Even in the uk with banned firearms, attacks and mass atrocities still happen with or without guns. I urge the committee to instead enforce more armed security guards on campuses.</p>

<p>Kevin Cooper Against themselves</p>	<p>All of these anti-gun laws are excessive and seem to only prohibit the law abiding citizen of his/her 2A rights. If you want to fix gun crimes, ENFORCE the law and PROSECUTE the Criminals. If a person commits a felony crime with a gun...hold them responsible for it with a 15-20 mandatory prison sentence with no early release, no good behavior BS. They need to spend every minute of their sentence. Over time, the word would spread that there is no early release and we would see less gun crimes. We need to enforce laws or why even have them. Making more laws that don't get enforced is ridiculous.</p>
<p>Craig Bauer Against themselves</p>	<p>There are several problems with this proposal.</p> <p>It is a back-door registry, and tax, aimed at punishing business owners simply for operating in the firearms industry. It will increase overhead in an industry that is already struggling with the expenses incurred by a plethora of existing restrictions. It will require firearms merchants to obtain their permits by July of 2025, but the bill contains no guarantee about how quickly and efficiently the state will issue permits. This could incur yet another crippling expense by forcing business owners to halt their operations for an unspecified period. And of course, this is an unconstitutional infringement on the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Further, this is felony conspiracy. Title 18 ss 241 USC conspiracy against rights VIOLATION. You are hereby duly notified to cease and desist Unconstitutional infringement as a matter of the act of treason it defines as a matter of the national security clause in the second Amendment. You have ZERO authority to enact firearms legislation per the 14th Amendment. YOU ARE LAW FULLY ORDERED TO CEASE AND DESIST.</p>
<p>Trever Landess Against themselves</p>	<p>The fact that this is even being proposed is a disgrace to Colorado and the United States. It goes against the constitution of the United States of America. "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." Trying to restrict how we the people keep and bear arms is an absolute infringement. Everyone in the Colorado state government swore an oath to protect and abide by the constitution of the United States of America. Everyone that has proposed this unconstitutional bill should immediately resign or be immediately removed from office. You have broken your oath to Colorado and to the United States. We the people will not let this stand!</p>

<p>Brooke McKenna For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Brooke McKenna and I'm a student at Cherry Creek High School, and today, I am testifying in support of bill SB24-131 to Prohibiting carrying firearms in sensitive places.</p> <p>I have spent my whole life worrying about gun violence. Starting at the age of 7, I started to jump at any sound in what was considered a safe space. Remembering my elementary school years, one of the things I remember most is having to go into lockdowns or leaving school early because there was a shooting near us. I remember having the most vivid nightmares at 10 about there being a shooting. I still have these.</p> <p>Around the start of school this year I went to a Bronco game. Before we went into the stadium I heard a loud sound that I could have sworn were gunshots. I ducked. They were actually fireworks. Then last month at the Chiefs Super Bowl parade, it happened. More than 20 people were shot somewhere that should have been a safe space.</p> <p>The gun problem in the United States is so large that it has become normalized. People go to stadiums, hospitals, parks, rec centers, libraries, and universities expecting the worst where they are supposed to be safe. If you support this bill, you will be helping to make it illegal to carry guns in what are supposed to be safe spaces. It will prohibit carrying firearms in places like parks, rec centers, hospitals, sporting venues, bars, libraries, universities, voting centers, and government buildings.</p> <p>This is a common-sense bill. A bill that you would think that we already had, however we don't.</p>
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	<p>No one needs a gun in a park, where you are meant to enjoy your time outside, not where you are supposed to look over your shoulder for a gun. A hospital, where people go for help, not to die.</p> <p>A university, where students, like me, are supposed to be preparing for our future, not a place where our future is ended. It is with these contentions in mind that I support SB24-131. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony in support of SB24-131.</p>
<p>Mark Landess Against themselves</p>	<p>I stand opposed to this bill because it stands in opposition to the rights of United States citizens expressed in the Second Amendment to our Constitution. I have the right to protect my property, loved ones, fellow law-abiding citizens, and the life God entrusted to me. Such a measure is tyrannical. Stand for the Constitution. Don't oppose it with this ridiculous bill.</p>
<p>Cody Vanden Brink Against themselves</p>	<p>This house bill (24-131) is unconstitutional and a direct attack on our second amendment right as citizens of Colorado. I demand that this bill be nullified on the standing that it violates our second amendment rights set forth in the constitution. This bill is a direct attack on law abiding citizens right to bear arms and defend themselves.</p>
<p>Michael Lidmila Against themselves</p>	<p>At a time when crime is on the rise everywhere this law would make it harder for me to protect myself and my family while doing nothing to stop crime.</p>
<p>David Braucht Against themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I would like to oppose this house bill as it stands to only impact law abiding citizens. Current and future decisions are based on past experiences, and what has been experienced with the establishment of gun free zones and the prohibition of law abiding citizens being in charge of their own security has resulted in the police showing up AFTER lives have been taken. This also falls under the category of infringement, and is a direct violation of constitutional rights given to us to maintain a free state by our forefathers. If armed guards and armed citizens are employed to guard money, why aren't they employed to guard a more precious resource.....children and people. I</p>

	<p>urge lawmakers to oppose this bill as it's only law abiding citizens that will follow the laws...</p>
<p>Joshua Riddle Against themselves</p>	<p>Most Mass shootings have happened in "Gun Free Zones". If it isn't obvious, "Gun Free Zones" are "Sensitive Spaces" in a trench coat.</p> <p>Criminals are not going to gun ranges or similar areas looking for a challenge. they are seeking the easiest prey they can find. This "Bill" is nothing more than a game preserve for criminals to hunt down people and kill, rape, beat, etc the law abiding people that frequent these areas.</p> <p>Those who vote in favor of this tyrant "Bill" should be held as accessory to murder for every person that dies from the implementation of this act of stupidity.</p> <p>Yet of course. you, the politicians will be safe. protected by people with guns, but we the peasants can die in the streets as long as you and your families are safe.</p>
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<p>richard koeppel Against themselves</p>	<p>Banning concealed and open carry in "sensitive Spaces" is just what the criminals want. If you haven't noticed, Those are the places that criminals and mass shooters target. Have you seen a mass shooting at a Country or biker bar ??? You have not. Colorado is a open carry state and should remain so. It also should become a Constitutional carry state.</p>
<p>sandra wagner Against themselves</p>	<p>I support the Second Amendment and those who believe in the importance of upholding our constitutional rights. This errant bill is in complete violation of those rights. Please vote NO on SB24-131.</p>
<p>Steve Oltman Against themselves</p>	<p>I cannot believe the lengths that the Colorado legislature is willing to go to to deprive Colorado's citizens of their Constitutional rights to self-protection and the legal possession of firearms. This bill, SB24-131, Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Places, is one of the worst yet. It effectively prevents law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves anyplace outside of their own homes. You must realize that only law-abiding citizens will be hurt by this proposed law. Criminals will certainly pay no attention to this law, so they will be the only ones carrying weapons. What could possibly go wrong? Please don't let this dangerous, irresponsible, and probably unconstitutional bill become law. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Connor Wilson Against themselves</p>	<p>The February 16th "shooting", likely referenced by the advocates of this bill, was a personally motivated double homicide, committed by an enraged and, frankly, extremely mentally unsound individual. There was testimony that the suspect had mentioned prior to the incident that they would shoot the victim(s) in the head the next time</p>

	<p>they didn't take out the trash. These are not the sort of comments made by individuals sound of mind, and it is my belief that this individual would have taken similarly violent actions regardless of whether or not they had access to their personal firearms or not. Additionally, the allowing of concealed carry makes the school and campus as a whole less likely to be targeted for mass shootings, due to the higher chance of retaliation from an unknown party during execution of the attack. Personally motivated acts of violence, such as the incident on February 16th, are often conducted within areas the attacker considers safe or relatively private. These locations are typically not immediately accessible by any form of campus security, and the ability for students and faculty to conceal carry increases the chance of a defender to protect themselves from an attacker, especially an attacker of greater physical strength. It is for these reasons that this bill to ban concealed carry on campus would not only be ineffective, but actively detrimental to the overall security of of the campuses and school as a whole.</p>
<p>jerry blake Against themselves</p>	<p>While the Supreme Court in its Bruen decision agreed that states may ban firearms in traditional "sensitive places" such as government buildings and schools, this horrible bill broadens the category to an absurd number of public places which would effectively encompass the entire state of Colorado and strip the people of their right to self-defense, which the court rejected.</p> <p>Criminals and nut jobs don't respect artificial boundaries and 94 percent of mass shootings occur in so-called gun-free zones. Democrats would simply be creating convenient slaughter pens for nut jobs to take advantage of rather than discouraging them in any way. You would enable criminals to deliberately target people in public parks, community centers and campuses because killers would know that the legislature made them vulnerable and defenseless.</p> <p>Of particular concern with this bill is that it would not allow people to carry in churches. Certainly the legislature must be aware that there have been several attempted mass shootings in churches in the United States that were stopped by armed citizens.</p> <p>On a personal note, I went shopping in the Boulder King Soopers the day before a nut job murdered 10 people there. This sensitive places bill would have done nothing to stop him.</p>

	<p>If this bill becomes law, the taxpayers of Colorado will be forced to fund expensive litigation to defend a blatantly unconstitutional law, along with all the other misguided anti-civil rights legislation the extreme left is pushing this session. right through the next election.</p> <p>Please vote it down.</p> <p>Best regards</p>
<p>Christopher Magee Against themselves</p>	<p>Committee members.</p> <p>My name is Chris Magee.</p> <p>I am a proud resident of Montrose Colorado and I rise in opposition of this bill which denies citizens of Colorado the ability and more importantly the right to defend themselves and their fellow citizens. On the surface this bill seems reasonable. There are places where you are prohibited from carrying a firearm. Here is the issue . These laws already exist! The places listed in this bill...Govt buildings etc are already illegal to carry so why double down with more burocrasy?</p> <p>All this bill does is further punish the law abiding citizen who simply wants to be protected.....something which more often than not the civilian population not law enforcement are the first responders.</p> <p>We all want to tackle the issue of gun violence in this country but punishing those who are law abiding for simply wanting to protect themselves is not the way.</p> <p>I urge you to vote no</p> <p>Chris M</p>
<p>Deborah Gold Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this bill. This could cause almost any place to be considered a "sensitive space" and prevent law-abiding citizens from the right to carry a gun in self defense outside their home. Do NOT pass this bill.</p>
<p>Scott Arnold Against</p>	<p>This hurts law abiding citizens more than anyone. I feel safer out in about if I know that there are more good guys with guns(you're basically encouraging bad people to do bad things, since their threat</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>of counter attack is greatly reduced). ~15 states have enacted constitutional carry since Biden took office. The rest of the country is more 2a. All of you people that sponsored this need to move out of the country. Police can't be everywhere. Please fix are homeless and migrant problems instead of trying to infringe on our rights. Your budget should be cut, stop wasting everyone's time with non value added activities. Stop making this a country of weak helpless people. Look at the south side of Chicago, they have stricted gun laws and tons of shootings. NYC just unleashed the national guard on their subway systems. You Dems are destroying this country with childish policies. Grow up.</p>
<p>Russell Dare Against themselves</p>	<p>This proposed bill would unfairly burden those who lawfully exercise their right to carry a firearm for personal protection. It targets those who are the most responsible people in society while carving out an exemption for law enforcement who by order of magnitude have more unsafe situations involving firearms. This law makes going about your day a nonsensical minefield of places where you'll suddenly be considered a law breaker and it's going to become unclear when those situations are. Over 15% of Coloradans opt to legally carry a firearm and it's not fair to burden those people with potential fines when doing absolutely nothing wrong.</p> <p>Because of recent supreme court decisions the state would be on the wrong side of the law and will face severe financial penalties as it attempts to defend themselves against a torrent of lawsuits that it'll ultimately lose. Spend the state's money to help the state, not to lose in a futile court battle. Support Colorado, vote this bill down.</p>
<p>Michael Heredia Against themselves</p>	<p>As a law abiding citizen of the United States, a veteran of 29 years active duty service in the US Army, a competitive marksman and a hunter, I find this bill to be nothing more than a deliberate attack upon the Second Amendment, as well as my rights to defend myself and my family. It is clearly designed to circumvent the 2nd Amendment ruling of the SCOTUS by defining virtually anyplace people congregate as a "sensitive place" thus rendering honest citizens defenseless in the face of the rising crime now endemic in Colorado due to the legislature's misguided efforts to excuse criminal activity. Current Colorado catch and release laws have given criminals a pass on drug crimes, car theft, assault and rendered bail provisions meaningless. Honest citizens must rely on themselves to defend their lives, family and property but under this hypocritical proposal they will be disarmed in virtually every public place and at the mercy of criminals who have no reason to be deterred by laws that coddle</p>

	<p>them and excuse their criminality. This misguided effort should be immediately dropped.</p>
<p>Jason Keene Against themselves</p>	<p>I am disappointed to hear that this bill would continue to erode the constitutional rights of Coloradoians. It is a proven fact that "safe spaces" are the prime targets of mass shootings. Leaving people completely defenceless is absurd.</p>
<p>scooter sund Against themselves</p>	<p>Personally, this is a horrible idea for the safety of Americans in Colorado, especially with the influx of illegals in Denver AND it also goes against the 2nd amendment. First it's the magazine limit (and the reason Magpul left Colorado), then it's the "assault rifle" issue; you keep infringing on our rights to defend ourselves.</p> <p>i currently open carry to let criminals know that they need to seek an easier target, and so that i can defend my family against criminals who would do us harm.</p> <p>This bill is an erosion of my rights and freedoms, i do not agree to abide by it if by some miracle it passes, and i doubt any sane sheriff or police officer would enforce it. Stop taking away our rights!</p>
<p>Kameron Bain Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Senate,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill seeking to ban conceal carry in churches. As a law-abiding citizen and a firm believer in both our Second Amendment rights and the freedom of religion, I am deeply concerned about the implications of such legislation.</p> <p>This bill not only infringes upon the right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves but also adds a troubling religious context by denying religious practitioners the ability to defend themselves from potential threats. Houses of worship, like any other public space, are not immune to violence, and individuals should have the right to take measures to ensure their safety, including carrying concealed firearms if they are legally permitted to do so.</p> <p>Furthermore, this legislation oversteps the government's sphere of control by encroaching into the realm of religion, an area in which it has no jurisdiction. The separation of church and state is a fundamental principle of our democracy, and any attempt to dictate how religious institutions should operate violates this principle.</p>

	<p>Rather than imposing restrictions on law-abiding citizens and religious organizations, I urge lawmakers to focus on addressing the root causes of violence and promoting measures that enhance public safety without infringing upon our constitutional rights. Additionally, I believe there should be laws in place to prevent the government from ever imposing such restrictions on the ability of individuals to protect themselves, especially in places of worship.</p> <p>In conclusion, I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and to uphold our Second Amendment rights and the freedom of religion. Let us work together to find solutions that prioritize both public safety and individual liberties.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kameron Bain</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to strongly urge you to VOTE NO on SB 24-131. Briefly, this is blatantly an end-around the Second Amendment. How stupid do you all think we are! Gun free zones, along with the gun free zone signs, are an open invitation to criminals that wish to do harm to an un-protected public.</p> <p>In addition, it's one more way for an over-grown government to get more money from its citizens.</p> <p>SB 131 does more harm than good. Please vote NO to protect our God-given rights to protect ourselves.</p> <p>Feeling Unrepresented, Joseph Pero Lakewood.</p>
<p>Earl Perry Against themselves</p>	<p>The effect of this bill, if passed, is to declare "open season" in "sensitive spaces." It provides a handy list of places where the deranged can expect no resistance. Apparently it is founded on the erethismic worry of neurotics that someone might be carrying a concealed weapon somewhere near them - something they apprehend without any visible evidence. This bill would seriously</p>

	handicap the ability of Coloradans to defend themselves by catering to hoplophobes. Please defeat it.
<p>Gary LaDue Against themselves</p>	<p>I wish to register strong opposition to SB24-131. Even as a staunchly liberal voter, I hold a valid Concealed Handgun Permit and I believe this bill does nothing, but limit the rights of law abiding citizens.</p> <p>There is a strong history of minority and oppressed peoples using their rights to carry firearms during protests to advocate for their civil rights. In response to members of the black community open carrying in California during the 60's in protest of police brutality, then governor Ronald Reagan supported and signed a bill banning open carry in the state. It had nothing to do with public safety, and all about suppressing those being oppressed by the police.</p> <p>Additionally, banning and limiting conceal carry in public spaces, targets a vast minority of the population. A group that has already gone through the CBI background check process. A criminal wishing to do harm to public, isn't going to care that there is a ban or limitations in place. Also, there are many places where carrying a firearm in Colorado, concealed or open, are already prohibited.</p> <p>Lastly, the only type of amendment to this bill to make it truly fair, would be to remove the exemption for law enforcement officers. Really think about this question I pose to you ... are you more likely to get shot by a civilian lawfully carrying a firearm, or more likely to be shot and/or killed by the police? Now, think about that if you were a minority or person of color. Banning police officers from carrying firearms in 'sensitive' public areas would save more lives than this current bill will ever save.</p>
<p>Karen Chapman For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you to the sponsors for supporting this important legislation. It will prohibit people from carrying guns, concealed or otherwise, at election and court locations.</p> <p>I have served as an election judge for many years. The last two times we were trained to escape if there was an attack on the election facility. It is crucial that no guns be allowed in such locations as there is no way to tell whether someone with a gun, open or concealed, is a danger.</p>

	<p>Just as the NRA bars all guns from its conventions, carrying a firearm in any manner at polling and court locations is common sense.</p> <p>Please support this legislation.</p>
<p>Keven Drobnitch Against themselves</p>	<p>Hi I want to voice my opposition against this bill to prohibit carrying firearms in sensitive spaces. Please don't put my life or my family's life in jeopardy because of some irrational fear of weapons. If people are carrying concealed they already have training and are law abiding citizens. Please don't take away my ability to protect my family in public places.</p>
<p>Paul Mandal Against themselves</p>	<p>I do not understand why lawful concealed firearm carriers are being targeted by this bill. I am not aware of concealed carriers posing a threat to the public at any significant rate. I feel totally comfortable having lawful concealed carriers around me in the places covered by this bill.</p>
<p>Miguel David Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill does nothing to prevent criminals and illegal gun activities and affects only law abiding citizens and the legal use of guns and personal defense. The attack on our second amendment needs to stop and this bill needs to be abandoned.</p>
<p>Karen Saunders Against themselves</p>	<p>I have a conceal carry permit, and have taken many classes and practice every week to be a responsible gun owner. The constitution gives us the right to bear arms and protect ourselves and I believe this bill is unconstitutional. With the homeless and drug addicts roaming the parking lot where I shop for groceries, gas stations, and on street corners, I do not feel safe without my pistol.</p>
<p>Karen Saunders Against themselves</p>	<p>I have a conceal carry permit, and have taken many classes and practice every week to be a responsible gun owner. The constitution gives us the right to bear arms and protect ourselves and I believe this bill is unconstitutional. With the homeless and drug addicts roaming the parking lot where I shop for groceries, gas stations, and on street corners, I do not feel safe without my pistol.</p>
<p>Michael Lidmila Against themselves</p>	<p>Honest lawful citizens such as myself will be less able to protect myself and family, criminals will pay it no mind.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush</p>	<p>TO: JUDICIARY COMMITTEE</p>

<p>Against themselves</p>	<p>RE: SB24-131 PROHIBITING CARRYING FIREARMS IN SENSITIVE SPACES 3-18-24 BILL TO BE HEARD ON 3-20-24</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO SPRINGS CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE: NO NO NO</p> <p>Over 600 bills have been now proposed in less than 6 weeks. No way you all could read, understand, much less propose this much mess. This bill is just another "lets disarm all of the law abiding citizens" while we give carte blanche to the criminals who will always get guns and weapons when they want to do harm. Your bill limits citizens from protecting themselves, those they love, and their communities. The insane people letting in millions of military aged men through our borders, are also wanting to disarm all of the law abiding citizens. What could go wrong there? Sensitive spaces are exactly where children and innocent citizens need protection. Look at the real profiles of the shootings. Those folks are the criminals. They are not law-abiding gun owners! This bill, and you all have stepped so far over our rights as per the 2nd amendment, it defies logic and truth. Constitutional law has been suspended for too long now. None of this makes rational or legal sense. Are we a gulag, or a free nation with the constitution? I so object to what I see!</p>
<p>Michael Morrissey Against themselves</p>	<p>The only people that will be affected by this bill are those who are currently law abiding citizens. People enter these places every day without event. More than likely everyone has encountered someone conceal carrying and never known it. That is the point, to have the ability to protect someone who means harm decides they want to act.</p> <p>Every shooting has been stopped by someone with a gun. Either the gunman taking their own life or someone else stopping their rampage. The police or security are not everywhere. This bill would only allow these shooters to be able to go on longer without opposition giving more time to take loved ones away from their families by creating soft targets that those wishing to do harm can flock to.</p>
<p>Daniel Foster Against themselves</p>	<p>Concealed Carry Permit holders are able to stop crimes all over the US. Did you not see the denver7.com from 1/2/24 where a family at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science averted a theft. Here in Denver. I have attached a picture/scan detailing more instances from just December, 2023 and January 2024. The FBI has prints of all 10 of my fingers and I had to pass a full background check to get my Carry Permit. Today the "No weapons allowed" signs on entry doors announce to evil people "This is a free zone where law abiding citizens have no way to stop me."</p>

<p>Steve Atkinson Against themselves</p>	<p>Advocating for the absolute right to bear arms. Unregulated gun control is crucial for self-defense, deterring tyranny, historical precedent, equality, and liberty preservation. It ensures individuals can defend against rising crime rates and oppressive governments. By upholding this right, marginalized communities gain equal footing in self-protection. History shows disarmed populations often face tyranny. In essence, safeguarding this right reaffirms individual autonomy and limits government overreach, essential for a free society.</p>
<p>Janet Chapple Against themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly opposed to this bill. I am a daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother who wants to continue to be safe when attending church, a movie theater, a park, at the grocery store, among many other places.</p> <p>This "sensitive spaces" bill would prohibit weapons, including concealed carry weapons by law-abiding citizens in many places. All you will succeed in doing is to create "soft" targeted locations for criminals. If this bill passes, every time we attend church, go to the store, etc., we are completely vulnerable.</p> <p>Bottom line, this bill would remove the ability of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves in a legal manner against criminals. Please keep in mind that the criminals don't abide by the existing laws so please don't infringe on legal 2nd Amendment rights.</p> <p>Thank you, Janet Chapple</p>
<p>Miguel David Against themselves</p>	<p>Please stop this bill from happening. This is nothing more than an attack on the Second Amendment and those who exercise their rights under it. This bill does nothing to prevent crime, and only target law-abiding gun owners by making it more difficult to defend themselves against criminals.</p>
<p>Micah Vacco For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Micah Vacco and I am a junior at the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. I am representing the over ten thousand strong community of UCCS. I am writing in support of SB24-131 to prohibit carrying firearms in sensitive public spaces.</p> <p>As a member of this community, ensuring safety for our residents, especially in spaces meant for gathering and learning, is of</p>

	<p>paramount importance. The tragic shooting at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs that claimed the lives of two bright young students, Samuel Knopp and Celie Montgomery, has shaken us to the core. It serves as a stark reminder of the ever-present danger posed by firearms in spaces dedicated to personal growth and the pursuit of knowledge.</p> <p>Prohibiting firearms in locations like college campuses, polling places, and public demonstrations will create a safer environment for all. These spaces should be sanctuaries where individuals can engage in civic activities, learn, and express themselves freely without fear of gun violence. Responsible gun ownership does not negate the need for reasonable restrictions in sensitive areas frequented by children, students, and families.</p> <p>Moreover, this bill provides clear exceptions for law enforcement, military personnel, and authorized security to ensure public safety is maintained. It strikes a sensible balance between preserving Second Amendment rights and promoting community well-being by limiting firearms in high-risk public gatherings.</p> <p>While no law can undo the deep loss our community has experienced, taking proactive steps to enhance campus security and prevent future tragedies is imperative. I urge you to support SB24-131 and make Colorado a safer place for all its residents to live, learn, and thrive. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Micah Vacco</p>
<p>Ralph Goble Against themselves</p>	<p>As a CCW permit holder this bill will remove my God given right to self-defense. I would not be allowed to carry when shopping, going to dances, Church, or any of the other various activities that I routinely attend. Should this bill pass only those that disobey the law (criminals) will be carrying in restricted places, and we will not be able to defend ourselves if the need should arise.</p>
<p>Marshall Holmes Against themselves</p>	<p>Prohibiting people from carrying firearms does not increase public safety. Anybody looking to commit murder will not think twice about ignoring gun free zones. In fact, murderers have historically targeted such areas due to the decreased chance that they will be stopped. States that have removed restrictions on people carrying firearms have not seen increases in shootings while simultaneously recording fewer crimes. An armed population is a deterrent.</p>

	<p>This list of sensitive places is so broad that it will become nearly impossible for people to defend themselves.</p>
<p>Reedy LASH Against themselves</p>	<p>I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB24-131. Unless the laws have changed, you already can not carry a firearm into a courthouse, correctional facility or juvenile detention center. LEO's who work at these locations use lockboxes to store their weapons when in these facilities except at courthouses when on duty or assigned to a courthouse. It is unlawful to be in possession of a firearm when consuming alcoholic beverages, so why are you trying to pass laws to prohibit something that is already unlawful. A couple of weeks ago an active shooter was shot in Joel Osteen's church in Houston and several years ago an active shooter was stopped by an armed person in Colorado Springs. There have been numerous church shooting, some were stopped by armed members in those congregations, yet you want to stop the ability of parishioners to protect themselves, yet this will do nothing to stop an active shooter in another "Gun Free Zone". Churches are open to the public, but are privately owned, not state owned, what gives you the right to tell a congregation they can't protect themselves. Also disarming teachers where unfortunately school shootings happen is another example of making a group of people a target for a person who wants to commit murder. This bill makes no sense at all, only endangers more people and is all about CONTROL. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE DOING, do something positive for the state, enforce the laws that are already on the books.</p>
<p>MARTHA OHLSON For themselves</p>	<p>A couple of years ago, I was riding my bicycle on the Arkansas River Trail in Pueblo. On the way back to town from the reservoir, the trail passes through the River Campus of the Nature Center, a city-owned park. I was going through the park about 5:15 pm on a weekday (gift shop and buildings were closed by then) and as I approached, I saw a guy lurking in the open wooded area near the buildings. White male, probably in his 20's, wearing black lederhosen with no shirt. He had a handgun, with a silencer attached, tucked into the suspenders of his lederhosen. This guy scared the heck out of me. I pedaled as fast as I could and put the gears up a couple of notches and got past him and out of there as fast as I could. I am not strong (age late 60's), so my fast is not really that fast, but it was fast for me. I didn't slow down until I felt like I was safely out of range. I was still shaking when I got home. I didn't report this to the police because I think it was probably legal for him to be there with his gun and silencer (what's up with the silencer?) and I would just be told that he has rights and I do not. Interestingly, he was the only one in the park when I arrived. Normally, on a beautiful weather day after work hours, there would be a few families there with children running around in the area that the guy was menacing. I don't know if there had been people there</p>

	<p>when he arrived and they left when he showed up with his gun or if people had arrived after and went back to their cars with the kiddos as soon as they saw him, but it was unusual to have the place that deserted. It seems unfair that one guy , who has all the rights, can prevent so many others, who have no rights, from enjoying the park. I think that guns should be prohibited from all the sensitive areas listed in the bill, including parks. We need to have some safe spaces.</p>
<p>Evelyn Curtis For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I write to you as a student attending the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, urging the support of SB24-131. Twenty-six days ago, I was woken up at 6:20 AM to police in my dorm room asking if there were bullet holes in my floor. Twenty-six days ago, I didn't know that concealed carry weapons that were registered were allowed to be on the campus where I live. My friend Sam was murdered on February 16th below my dorm with an unregistered weapon that made it's way into the wrong hands, through doors, and past meek security measures. That same weapon could've easily been registered and allowed to be carried on my campus. The dorms are a shared residential area with many people we don't know, but it's also our home. This bill can't change the past, and it won't stop every crime, but it can help to prevent senseless, and cruel violence in the schools and other sensitive spaces of Colorado. I plead with you, as do many of my classmates and friends, to take action and decide today to help us heal, and help us make a difference by supporting SB24-131. Don't let guns be carried into our homes. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Jams Rose Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose this bill because it would undermine or prevent the currently legal carrying of firearms in a large part of the state, effectively violating the Bruen Supreme Court decision. It is clear from empirical evidence that would be murderers prefer "gun free" zones to commit their attacks because they realize that they are safer to do so. Passing this proposal into law would increase danger to unarmed as well as currently legally armed citizens. This would not be a life saving bill but a life endangering bill and a violation of Constitutional rights. Would be murderers are not going to obey any laws regarding "sensitive spaces" except to prefer them for their crimes. Assertions by gun control activists that people with concealed carry permits are responsible for many killings are based on fabricated and untrue claims.</p>
<p>Deborah Griffin For</p>	<p>My name is Deborah Griffin and am testifying on behalf of myself.</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of this bill SB 24-131 – Prohibiting carrying a firearm in Sensitive Spaces.</p> <p>I am a resident of Colorado Springs, a wife, Mother, and a Nurse Practitioner.</p> <p>I have personally been affected by gun violence with the 2007 New Life Church shooting (killing 1 and wounding 4), a 2010 suicide in the hospital workplace with a firearm, and the 2015 Planned Parenthood shooting (killing 3 and wounding 9).</p> <p>Churches, hospitals, and health care clinics should be safe places for employees, visitors, and others. They should not be a shooting range.</p> <p>Most times, the easy access and availability of firearms in the hands of someone in crisis, results in death, injury, and lifelong trauma to survivors. I am a survivor and wish I wasn't. Statistics of gun violence does not include family, friends, bystanders and others, that are forever traumatized by this violence.</p> <p>We know that the presence of firearms greatly increases the risk of lethal and near-lethal outcomes. I believe in the Second Amendment and having trained people in places with firearms, but many people that carry firearms don't know what to do in a crisis situation and can be a danger to themselves and others.</p> <p>In America, it seems to be some gun owners mission is to "save the day" as a "good guy with a gun" and take the life of others. I don't know who is the good guy or the bad guy, I don't feel safe with either of those folks. We have heard the opposition of this bill feels it infringes on their constitutional rights – it does not, I feel it is intended to raise the standards to make Colorado safer for all. My hospital and clinic are in the business of saving lives and we should be protected from gun violence by prohibiting firearms in sensitive spaces.</p> <p>I encourage you to support this bill and vote YES.</p>
<p>Martin Tylicki Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to you today to oppose this bill. Originally I was only going to suggest an amendment but after rereading the text it's become clear this bill unfairly targets anyone who wants to legally carry a gun but doesn't have a car.</p> <p>The amendment I was going to propose was to add holders of valid Concealed Handgun Permits to the list of exceptions. People with</p>

	<p>CHPs have already gone through the necessary steps to register with their sheriff's department including getting fingerprinted. This bill would punish those people by barring them from carrying concealed in common areas such as parks and public spaces with events leaving them unable to defend themselves even though they are law-abiding citizens and have the right to do so. Parks especially seem overly restrictive as it's unclear if these are just parks within city limits or also parks where camping takes place. I always bring a firearm when I go camping for protection and find it ridiculous that this could be made illegal if public parks are labeled as sensitive spaces.</p> <p>The reason I switched to oppose is the fact that this bill's only exception to carrying in these sensitive spaces is inside a locked box in a car. This means that anyone who doesn't have a car but does lawfully carry would essentially be banned from certain public areas or be forced to not carry at all. This is unfair and we shouldn't be making laws that give exceptions to the wealthy and privileged while removing the rights of others.</p> <p>This bill will not deter criminals who already conceal carry illegally from continuing to do so, but it will punish law-abiding citizens who go through the proper procedures for exercising their rights. I hope that you vote no to prevent this bill from going into law.</p> <p>Thanks, Martin</p>
<p>richard koeppel Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this bill, as this is just an advertisement and an invite to criminals and those wanting to do harm to go and shoot up places because they know that nobody will be able to stop them. Has there ever been a mass shooting at a biker or cowboy bar ??? I think not. We need open and concealed carry to prevent people from doing harm.</p>
<p>John Henderson Against</p>	<p>I am failing to see how a bill that bans state-approved CCW holders from exercising their rights in public places will affect criminals who already ignore the law. This bill would effectively ban legal concealed carry in most of Colorado. Not only is it enough for you to require</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>multiple approval steps for law-abiding Coloradans to carry their legal firearms for protection across the state, now you are saying "despite the class, the background checks, fingerprints, photographs, and 6-8 weeks wait for your permit, we still don't trust you enough to carry a firearm for protection so we are banning you from doing so." In fact, this bill is just a statement that says you dislike Coloradans and their Second Amendment rights so much, you are willing to criminalize them even after they have followed all the rules. Criminals don't carry legal CCW permits, so how will this stop them from breaking the law? It won't, it just targets the law-abiding. This bill must be rejected whole-heartedly.</p>
<p>Darrell Dinges Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose further restrictions against allowing Colorado citizen to legally carry firearms. In many parts of the Colorado, law enforcement could be a half hour or more away. People in these areas need be available to defend themselves, whether as school staff, within a church or park. Even in metro areas law enforcement could require 10 minutes or more to respond. With the current trend decreasing funding for law enforcement, people need be more reliant on self-protection. This bill would be like telling a mountain homeowner, he could not own a fire extinguisher, because he not fireman.</p>
<p>Samuel Urquhart Against themselves</p>	<p>I would like to express my strong opposition to SB24-131. This bill is a clear infringement of both the U.S. and Colorado Constitution. The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly states, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" and Article II, § 13 of the Colorado Constitution states, "The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property... shall be called into question;". I understand that mass shootings are a problem and need to be addressed. Taking away the rights of law abiding citizens who only seek to defend themselves and their families is not the way to stop mass shootings. Nothing in SB24-131 requires the "sensitive places" outlined to have any measures to protect citizens or prevent armed criminals from ignoring arbitrary boundaries and entering. Law-abiding gun owners should not face criminal penalties for simply crossing arbitrary lines. Criminals, by their very nature, do not abide by laws or regulations; thus, they are undeterred by the prospect of encountering unarmed individuals. Instead, these zones disarm law-abiding citizens, leaving them vulnerable and defenseless in the face of danger. All I seek to do is defend myself and my family and unconstitutional laws, such as SB24-131, would prevent me from doing that in the event of a mass shooting and many other unforeseen situations. 94% of mass shootings occur in these gun-free zones; laws and signage are not enough to stop criminals. There are other more effective ways to enact "gun control" without stripping the rights of law abiding</p>

	<p>citizens. Increasing gun safety education and encouraging the lawful bearing of arms would have a great impact on reducing mass shootings. Stand with me against SB24-131</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against themselves</p>	<p>As a 27 year resident of Northern Colorado, I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB24-131, which would greatly restrict places where responsible gun owners can carry their defensive firearms. This is an extremely misguided attempt at limiting the Second Amendment rights inherent in our Bill of Rights, and is guaranteed to adversely effect the safety of law abiding Coloradans, as well as the Rights of freemen, responsible gun owners.</p> <p>Restricting where law abiding citizens, who are a force multiplier (ask any law enforcement officer...) unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners and enthusiasts who are concerned with the safety of themselves and their families when traversing nearly any place in Colorado EXCEPT THEIR OWN HOMES! We live and work out in the world and expect and are required as citizens to protect ourselves and those around us. This proposal imposes undue burden on individuals exercising their Second Amendment rights and would lessen participation in these Constitutionally guaranteed activities!</p> <p>I respectfully and STRONGLY urge you to OPPOSE any legislation that seeks to limit any further areas where law abiding citizens can carry defensive firearms.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my perspective on OPPOSING RESTRICTIONS TO WHERE WE CAN CARRY SB24-131!</p>
<p>Paul Homberger Against themselves</p>	<p>I would first like to thank you for your willingness to serve as a representative for the people of Colorado. As an educator in our public school system, I understand the importance of educating, representing, and serving our community.</p> <p>Last year, I wrote an e-mail to you asking you to vote against the bill, HB23-1230 Prohibit Assault Weapons in Colorado. I was relieved that the bill was voted down and that you, the legislators, listened to the</p>

	<p>tens of thousands of emails, phone calls, and letters that were sent to you asking you to not support this bill. I had pride at the end of the legislative session that our representative government listened to the public.</p> <p>This year, I see that a similar bill, HB24-1292 Prohibit Certain Weapons Used in Mass Shootings, was introduced for consideration. I am disappointed to see the introduction of this bill. I respectfully ask that you vote no on this very similar bill.</p> <p>Last year, the legislature passed several bills pertaining to public safety and gun ownership. I ask that you allow more time to pass to gather data to see if those bills/laws are enough to have the desired effect on gun violence before dedicating time, resources, and energy into vilifying and punishing responsible gun owners with continuing to pass additional bills.</p> <p>Instead, put your energy and resources into addressing those individuals that would harm others regardless of the type of violence they choose. Propose bills that will help individuals that struggle with bullying, social acceptance, financial opportunity, hate, isolation, suicidal ideation, early childhood trauma, online addiction, and abuse whether physical, sexual, or emotional. We all need to be proactive and help our fellow Coloradoans before they decide to use any weapon illegally.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you do not punish responsible gun owners. Instead, focus on helping those who need our support and help. Therefore, I ask that you vote no.</p>
<p>Brian Christie Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Esteemed Legislators:</p> <p>I have read the text of SB24-131 and wish to express my vehement opposition to it. I understand the intention is to protect the general public, but I ask you: do you really believe criminals will adhere to this law any more than the other laws they are willing to break?</p> <p>This bill will tie the hands of the general public (and all responsible gun owners) and make it impossible for those who have the desire to protect themselves. The entire population will be SOLELY dependent upon the police response which is not immediate. One minute is</p>

	<p>more than enough time for a criminal to rob or shoot someone and get away. No police force can respond within a minute, or two or three.</p> <p>Our country's founders recognized a need for ordinary citizens to keep and bear arms. They did not intend this right to be restricted to just peoples' own premises.</p> <p>You are lawmakers who were elected by the people, for the people to DEFEND our rights and our safety. This bill seeks to take away both. Despite what I'm sure are best intentions, this bill willfully defies the United States Constitution and undermines the rights of the very people you swore to serve.</p> <p>Please remove this bill from consideration. These attempts to prohibit good people from exercising these rights only emboldens criminals who will know that absolutely nobody will be a threat to them. This makes these "sensitive areas" MORE dangerous, not less.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brian Christie</p>
<p>Kevin Anderson Against themselves</p>	<p>Committee Members:</p> <p>Expanding gun free zones would create more spaces for criminals to target law abiding citizens unable to protect themselves. Due to the vastly expanded array of gun free zones otherwise law abiding citizens may unknowingly become criminals.</p>
<p>Francia Abel For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee Chair and Members,</p> <p>I am writing in support of bill SB24-131. As a mother of school-aged children and healthcare worker am I deeply concerned about the easy access to firearms and assault weapons to any one who wishes one and their ability to carry these in areas where innocent bystanders could be hurt. People are being shot daily for entering in situations where, if a gun was not present, most likely that shooting would not happen and situations would diffuse in a less violent way. I have seen the effects of gun violence as a healthcare worker, not only for the victims but their families as well. As a mother, I constantly live in fear that I have kissed my kids goodbye for the last time. Guns have no</p>

	place in areas where innocent, unarmed civilians could be hurt. Please vote yes on bill SB24-131.
Hazel Gordon For themselves	<p>The staggeringly high incidence of gun violence in this country is a great cause for concern for most Coloradans who care about others as well as themselves. Although it has been publicized in the media that less than 6.3% of Coloradans are recreational hunters (Colorado Sun, March 20, 2024), nevertheless some 37% of Coloradans possess at least one gun and the state ranks 18th of all states in the number of firearm-related deaths (CRP News, Feb. 24, 2024). In addition, at least 60 mass shootings have occurred in Colorado since 2014 (same news source) and over 149,000 registered ("legal") guns have been counted recently (Colorado Sun, March 20, 2024)</p> <p>I believe that the passage of SB24-131 will help to curtail the incidence of mass shootings and gun violence and will provide incentives to alert the public to become more aware of those who ignore these laws in sensitive places.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of SB 24-131.</p>
Jeff Callaway Against themselves	<p>Please do not restrict my ability to defend myself, my family, and my fellow citizens. Instead, you should invest in making sure more individuals are trained and able to protect themselves and others. When you restrict the ability to concealed carry, you make those locations a target. This is important for all places, but especially those with vulnerable populations that are not easily able to escape or physically fight back against potentially larger and stronger individuals that would wish them harm (or people that are illegally armed anyway). Being prepared to defend ourselves and those around us is a solemn responsibility that many citizens embrace, so I urge you to vote NO on this bill.</p>
Kimberly Green For themselves	<p>I am mother of two small children, and I support this bill with the hope that keeping guns out of public places will better protect our citizens. Thank you.</p>
Stephanie Jordan Against themselves	<p>This is completely against our second amendment right first and foremost! The fact that more recently we have had more church shootings than ever before and this is being positioned to take away the right to protect our community is absolutely ridiculous and insane! Our community with Christ has been and will be under attack more so than ever before! The men and women who go through interviews and extensive trainings to be able to protect our men and</p>

	women and our CHILDREN from predators and from the mentally ill whom want them dead, should absolutely be able to defend those who are innocent! This world is under attack and specifically our religious communities! There is only one way to protect against someone who enters with a weapon, and that is with a weapon of our own! Pistol or long barrel! PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!!!!!!!!!!!
Mike Stern Against themselves	As a responsibility firearm owner, a former law enforcement officer. I can say that taking firearms away from those of us who are trained and understand gun safety. We are defenseless against those that are not willing to turn over their firearms. Criminals will continue to do what they do, laws do not hold them in place. Most of the crimes committed with a firearm are handguns not rifles. I feel this bill should be reformed to handle crimes with handguns and have harsher penalties for those who wish to do evil acts.
Phillip Escobedo Against themselves	I have been a volunteer at our local community church for the last three years, I have been fortunate to train with some excellent men and women volunteers that make our place of worship a safer place to be. It would be a crying shame if we are unable to protect our women, children. And elderly against a threat that we so often see in our communities. College campuses , houses of worship, we have witnessed too many active threats and how lives have been saved because of having our right to carry at these places. I'm hopeful that the right thing is done here and that we are not stripped of our rights to protect ourselves and the innocent.
Cindy Staudt Against themselves	I want to express my extreme displeasure with this proposed bill. You are targeting law abiding citizens and not doing enough to punish criminals. Where are these statistics that show this would lead to a decrease in crime? You don't have any do you? That's because it doesn't work. Just look at California. Stop trying to make abiding citizens the enemy and vote no on this bill.
Mark Petri Against themselves	I am against more laws that only hamstring and create unsafe environments for the law-abiding citizens of this great state, while giving more leeway for criminals (who will not abide by the law, but take advantage) to have the upper hand in their ambitions to harm the people who live in this state. What kind of protection will be in place for the attendees of events, children, teachers, parents, visitors, and other innocent bystanders if such a law is passed? The criminals will have free reign to do as they please while us law-abiding citizens are sitting ducks. Please think about what you are voting on. It's not a law for the safety of our citizens, it's a law for criminals to have the upper hand.

<p>Pete Fibiger Against themselves</p>	<p>The second amendment of the Constitution says 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. I'm not exactly sure. What part of shall not be infringed? You can't understand. Or are you deciding to simply ignore that part of the constitution? I understand you elected are nothing more than part-time employees and you are trying to enact your will and prejudices upon the living souls of Colorado. As you may know government operates through the consent of the governed and to all you liberals, even Obama acknowledged that to be fact. I for one do not give you my consent, explicit or tacit, especially when it comes to trying to take away my God given rights as a native born American. You, as the elected, you need to stay within the color of law and stay within the scope of your office and as you may not know when you step outside of that scope of the law you commit a felony. These felonies need to be prosecuted more often. So you the elected stay within the lane of your operation. After reading the second amendment, I struggled to see where in that law (the law that protects my rights) it give you the right to tell me where I can and can't carry arms. Furthermore Chief Justice John Marshall said it best in Marbury v. Madison (5 U.S. 137) 1803, when he said "A law repugnant to the Constitution is void". Since the second amendment says nothing about how I can carry arms or where I can't carry the arms your law is no avoid and no one needs to abide by it. Even if this law passes, it will be an unconstitutional law and you will all have committed a felony for stepping outside the scope and color of the constitution. Since I am a free living soul and a patriotic American with self-determination, where I live by the law of the land which is the Constitution of the United States and the Bible, I will not abide or comply with your own constitutional law. After all, your legislations are not meant to protect Americans. They are meant to protect the evil ones who want to destroy us. The second amendment was made into law to protect us from you the tyrannical government.</p>
<p>Robert Smith Against themselves</p>	<p>I am testifying against this bill, as I believe it will make Coloradoans less safe these so called "sensitive places" will be targeted by violent criminals specifically as they will face no opposition whilst carrying out an attack. This proposed law will not disarm dangerous criminals and is not consistent with the text, history or tradition of gun regulations in the United States as defined by the Supreme Court in the NYSRPA v. Bruen decision.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>

<p>Geoffrey Laubhan Against themselves</p>	<p>This is absolutely absurd. Disarming the good guys will only allow more mass shootings!</p>
<p>Natalie Jensen For themselves</p>	<p>I experienced my first bomb threat in elementary school as a 5th grader. A high school student had planted explosives around the campus. This inspired my parents to put me through extensive training in self defense Sade and active shooter procedures, including disarming a gunman, and running from a shooter. Despite my training, I still don't feel safe because people are still dying. My dear friend Sam Knopp was murdered in his dorm on the UCCS campus. Why are we still watching our friends die to gun violence? This bandaid solution of security and self defense training isn't working anymore. We NEED this change to happen to feel safe on our campuses again. I can't keep watching my friends die.</p>
<p>Tim Wunder Against themselves</p>	<p>I am now writing my second testimony of the week in response to the unconstitutional overreach of power wielded against the 2nd amendment rights of the citizens of Colorado and U.S. Any lawmaker that is actually educated on the intent and functionality of concealed carry protection should be aware of the term "soft target." This is an area that is almost always occupied by large groups of people at once who have no ability to defend themselves before the arrival of police responders. Obviously, soft targets are continuously targeted by mass shooters and perpetrators of other forms of large scale violence. The function of concealed carry is to allow people to protect themselves outside of their homes, which almost always includes the "sensitive areas" listed in this bill.</p> <p>Are you really going to tell me that my wife won't be able to go to a public park, by herself, with our kids and not be able to carry the weapon that she has been licensed and trained with? Are you going to make the assumption that public parks are naturally safe with no threat from violent perpetrators? If not, are you going to provide my family with armed guards? Increase the size of our police force and cut response times in half? Or will my family become a soft target during a crisis situation? Forced to fend for themselves for 5 to 15 minutes before the only people that you deem worthy of carrying firearms finally show up?</p> <p>In terms of private property, you have no right to make decisions for private property owners who would willingly allow concealed carry.</p>

	<p>Churches should not be forced to openly declare whether or not this is allowed.</p> <p>This is a gross overreach of power threatening not only the 2nd amendment rights of the people that you have sworn an oath to, but to the separation of church and state.</p> <p>Invest your time and our tax money into the larger problems of this state. Like the ever increasing number of homeless drug users who are constantly erratic and threatening (especially on public transportation systems!)</p> <p>You are seeking to prevent violent criminals from taking the lives of others by stripping law abiding citizens of their rights to protect themselves without guaranteeing their safety through other means. This is a self-contradicting, egregious display of virtue signaling without upholding your responsibility for actually protecting your citizens. You want them safe? I hope you can afford to provide an armed guard for each of your almost 6 million citizens.</p>
<p>Nicholas Skalisky Against themselves</p>	<p>SB24-131 will not protect anyone. Instead, it will make gun owners into lawbreakers, or disarm citizens so that they are vulnerable to assailants and shooters, who don't care about the laws they are already breaking (therefore they will not mind breaking another one). The movie theater shooter in Aurora specifically targeted a gun free zone, so his victims would be defenseless.</p> <p>I carry at church in order to protect members of the church, and this bill could negatively impact myself and them. Additionally, this will render defenseless people who frequent public venues such as park, who do not have immediate access to armed security. People deserve the right and the opportunity to protect themselves and others, and not be dependent on the government to show up 10-20 minutes later when it is too late. The average police response time to a shooting is far too long, and even it were shortened, a well-trained conceal carrier can return fire in under 2-3 seconds. Instead of taking away our rights, you should be encouraging people to have the right attitude and training to protect oneself and others with a firearm.</p>
<p>Geoffrey LAUBHAN Against</p>	<p>I am against this. This is asking for evil to enter into these establishments. We have seen church shootings recently more and</p>

themselves	more. If a safety team waits for law enforcement to show up.. each bullet from the shooter can be a life.
Leif Sigstedt Against themselves	<p>I don't know how anyone thinks that making half the state into a gun free zone is a good idea. The vast majority of "active shooter incidents" in the US happen in gun free zones. This seems to me to be just about doling out more punishment to the law-abiding gun owners that our current politicians seem to hate so much. People who have their concealed carry permits are the very epitome of law-abiding, having an extremely low level of committing crimes compared to the rest of the population. After recent rulings such as Bruen, trying to pass laws like this as quite an act of direct defiance of their authority. If we don't follow their rulings then what exactly are we supposed to follow? The constitution seems to be off of the table as well. I've never seen so many attempts to remove our inherent human rights here in Colorado as I see this year and it makes me sad. I miss the days when we could agree on things like these, as they are the backbone of what it meant to be an American. I urge anyone considering this bill to reconsider voting for it. Just because you have the power to do something doesn't mean that you should. In this case, in my opinion, it's outside of the purview of what congress is able to do, and on top of that it's a big mistake. Just look at California's recent (and nearly identical) bill SB-2 and how fast it was declared unconstitutional and how it's now been stayed. Lastly, if you are going to end up trying to remove people's right to defend themselves in these places, then you should be legally liable for anything that happens to us in these areas as a result of being disarmed. That and an around the clock armed security force should be required at any and all of these locations. That's the only way that this could be justified in any way shape or form. Vote no on SB-24-131.</p>
Donna LaBelle Against themselves	<p>Chair Gonzalez and members of the Judiciary committee, thank you for the privilege of being able to share my thoughts and concerns with you. My name is Donna LaBelle. I represent myself but at the same time I know I represent many who for a variety of reasons will most likely not ever testify themselves but I hope to encourage many of them to do just that. Last night at 10:25 PM I was the last person to testify before the House Judiciary committee regarding 1292, a bill aiming to prohibit certain weapons. 577 of us signed up to speak and 48 weren't even able to be heard within the 12-hour allotted time frame. I learned a lot from the testimony. And because of what I heard I have a question for you, a rhetorical question of course but a very real one. And the question is WHY? Why would this bill ever be</p>

	<p>put forth if the intent really is more safety and less violence and mass shootings? Last night I learned that we know how to stop them by ending soft targets. Legal gun owners are extremely safety conscious people! Schools and places where guns are prohibited put out a neon Welcome sign to people that commit these horrendous crimes. As was stated, they never happen in a gun stores or police stations. Or even here at the capitol because of all the measures put in place. We heard it a hundred times yesterday: criminals do not follow laws, law abiding citizens do so this law would strip away all self defense options for them. I truly do not understand the logic behind this bill at all. Please vote no. Thank you.</p>
<p>Maxwell Hayes Against themselves</p>	<p>I can not for the life of me figure out why the government allows criminal aliens, terrosit, gang members and Mexican cartel members in America and then tell the American people they are not allowed to carry guns. The only answer is the colosdo wants DEAD AMERICANS. I shoot at a tange weekly and not once has their been a mass shooting at my range, because it's not the guns that kill people it's George soros suicide shooters that kill American and the colorado government. The same government that has declared war onthe American people.</p>
<p>Scott Pennington Against themselves</p>	<p>This clearly unconstitutional bill would cost citizens their lives and dramatically increase violent crime. If the state declares that a place is sensitive, then it must provide immediate security and protection for all individuals who have been made helpless by being disarmed. Firearms save lives. Your armed security prove that to be true. Stop making citizens vulnerable to those with violent intent.</p>
<p>Tom Darabaris Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill will make places of worship targets for violence because you will be stripping individual citizens from their ability to protect themselves. You are violating people's 2nd Amendment rights. Religious communities both domestic and abroad have increasingly been targeted for violence. This bill is putting thousands of citizens at risk. As a concerned citizen, I strongly oppose.</p>
<p>Benjamin Luksch Against themselves</p>	<p>This misguided bill aims to crack down on violence by stripping the most responsible citizens of their second amendment rights. These are the very same people who would put an end to a mass shooting event if confronted with the responsibility to do so. This bill accomplishes the exact opposite of what it is meant to do by turning many vulnerable locations into easy targets for criminals. Moving this bill forward would increase the likelihood of mass shootings by providing a list of locations where a deranged individual would be most likely to stage a mass casualty event. If the committee is truly</p>

	<p>concerned about safety in the aforementioned locations, they will scrap this bill.</p>
<p>Steven Dean Against themselves</p>	<p>Testimony of Steven A. Dean March 20, 2024 Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee</p> <p>Testimony Against SB24-131</p> <p>Good afternoon Chair and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.</p> <p>My name is Steven Dean, I have been a citizen of Colorado for 23 years and have lived in Douglas County for 15 years. I am an aerospace engineer, father, husband, youth leader, and precinct committee person.</p> <p>I oppose SB24-131 based on the Amicus Brief submitted to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in the case of RENO MAY, ET AL. v. Bonta linked here: https://crimeresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/57.1-PORAC-Amicus-Brief.pdf. Colorado SB24-131 violates the US Constitution similarly to California SB2.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Claire Lucas For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you to the committee members for letting me submit my testimony in writing. I was there for 5 hours, but had to leave. My name is Claire Lucas. I am testifying on behalf of myself.</p> <p>My daughter was a student at Park County High School in Bailey, CO. Seventeen years ago there was a hostage situation at my daughter's school. As a parent, I lived through a nightmare all afternoon waiting to learn if my daughter was alive or dead. Before that afternoon was over the hostage taker shot one student in the head as she tried to escape. He killed her.</p> <p>When violent acts occur in our communities, the incident has a ripple effect. Not only are the people immediately impacted by the event traumatized, but also their friends, family members, and the greater</p>

	<p>community, who feel the pain, loss and a sense of insecurity. No longer do they feel safe going to school, going to the grocery store or being in large crowds. The trauma of that day haunts the entire community for years.</p> <p>You may not remember the shooting at Platte Canyon High School, only one child died. It was after Columbine High School and before Sandy Hook Elementary School. But the community of Bailey has not forgotten what happened 17 years ago and will never be the same. Our sense of safety was shattered that day.</p> <p>Every day, more than 120 people in the U.S. are killed with guns, twice as many are shot and wounded and countless others are impacted by acts of gun violence.</p> <p>How many communities does this number represent?</p> <p>Passing this commonsense gun law which prohibits firearms in sensitive locations such as schools, playgrounds, government buildings, etc. will be a step forward in making our communities safer. Guns don't belong in sensitive spaces.</p> <p>We need all the safe zones listed in SB24-131. We need to vote on this bill today. Please do not table it.</p>
<p>Richard Mack Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Richard Mack, I live in Centennial, CO. Thank you for reading/hearing my testimony today. I absolutely oppose this bill and I ask that you withdraw your support for SB24-0131 and vote to no.</p> <p>This bill ultimately punishes the larger majority of lawful gun owners and future gun owners. The very very small minority of people that want to kill, will find the means to cause harm. This bill does not address the true issue which stems from the spiritual and mental health of the perpetrators.</p>

	<p>Those with ill intent will still find ways to obtain weapons through illegal means. Law-abiding citizens, however, will be left defenseless against potential threats to their safety and their families.</p> <p>Instead of infringing on constitutional rights, we should focus on enforcing existing gun laws. Swift and speedy trials with harsh punishments are true deterrents. Instead cases are drawn out and the general public often forgets what crime had been committed. Probably in some cases, the defendant probably has too. You should not punish responsible gun owners for the actions of a few bad actors.</p> <p>This bill will do nothing but help know where the perpetrators they can commit crimes without the deterrent of not knowing if there private citizens that could impede or prevent the crime. Expanding the safe gun free zone will do nothing but increase the number of places that criminals can attack unarmed citizens.</p> <p>It is not the guns, it is the people behind them. Work on solutions that address the mental health of the criminals that are committing these crimes, not the law abiding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you, Richard Mack 153 E Panama Dr Centennial, CO 80121</p>
<p>Erik Kreider Against themself</p>	<p>How is it that the anti-gun establishment seeks to make spaces that psychopaths target more vulnerable in an effort to defend them? Should not they seek to strengthen and harden sensitive spaces against such crime? The most common sense indicates the fence keeps the foxes out of the chicken coop. Only idiots remove the fence.</p> <p>Legal prohibition never works – any psycho with half a brain fundamentally understands targeting a sensitive space where he knows the inhabitants cannot mount a defense is exactly the location he'll seek to target.</p>

	<p>How is it politicians fail to realize this most basic logic?</p> <p>The criminal mind will apply this most basic of logical argument precisely to target sensitive spaces because he seeks adequate self preservation to commit the maximum heinous impact.</p> <p>An armed society, is a polite society. It's that simple.</p> <p>The fools we have here in office writing these bills obviously don't understand the very laws that are already state statutes. Why is it necessary to prohibit possession of firearms in courts when that's already a law? Many of the 'sensitive spaces' defined in this inane bill already have limitations on possession of firearms.</p> <p>We deserve better than firearm illiterates governing the application of our second amendment, which is only second because it must back up the First, which is the most important in our Bill of Rights.</p> <p>The Second Amendment was not crafted to guarantee the rights of citizens to hunt or use firearms for sporting purposes. The Second, is so, explicitly to balance the power of the people against an overreaching, freedom-infringing, authoritarian government. The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights acts as a warning to politicians who seek to legislate oppression. Prohibition of the citizenry from ownership of weapons that can provide a measure of balance to the power of the military is a direct and historically substantiated prerequisite of systemic oppression.</p> <p>Politicians who seek to solve social ills should propose legislation against the misuse of such instruments, not outright prohibition, which history consistently demonstrates never works where the criminal mind is involved.</p> <p>This and other related gun-control bills that have been created by firearm illiterate politicians are liberty infringing gambits extracted directly from the authoritarian's handbook and will not be tolerated by citizen patriots who value the United States Constitution and it's Bill of Rights.</p>
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<p>Cynthia Dozier Against themselves</p>	<p>Good morning, I am writing in opposition to SB24-131. This bill will only put more people at risk as criminals will know that certain places and groups are unprotected and vulnerable to their criminal intent to do harm. Please reconsider the consequences of this bill and give law-abiding citizens the freedom to protect themselves and others. Also, re-direct your efforts towards helping the mentally ill and keeping criminals off the streets. Thank you.</p>
<p>Avery Polacek For themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I want to state my extreme support for this bill. I grew up in Colorado and am now raising my two young children here. I am terrified for their future, and terrified that future may be cut short by gun violence. I want to take my children to the playground, or the Christmas parade, without being on constant alert for a gun or an active shooting situation. I want to send my children to school without worrying that their teacher is secretly carrying a weapon that may or may not be properly secured.</p> <p>I absolutely support prohibiting firearms in sensitive spaces. This bill makes it more likely that my 4 and 6 year old will survive to adulthood and not face gun violence in their daily lives.</p> <p>Thank you, Avery Polacek</p>
<p>Heidi Wilbur For themselves</p>	<p>Chairperson Gonzales and Members of the Committee, my name is Heidi Wilbur and I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 24-131. I am a resident of Denver (House District 7). I am an attorney and a mother of two elementary school-aged boys. They are the reason I am providing this testimony today as my family spends a lot of time in places like early childhood schools, parks, playgrounds, stadiums, libraries, museums, and zoos. Yet many of these places are not as protected from gun violence as they could be.</p> <p>With firearms being the leading cause of death for children in the US, my young kids have already been taught at school how to stop bleeding from a gunshot wound. That burden should not fall on children. It is our job to protect them.</p>

	<p>In Bruen, the United States Supreme Court explicitly recognized the longstanding and lawful tradition of prohibiting firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings. It also affirmed that modern regulations prohibiting the carry of firearms in new and analogous sensitive places do not violate the Second Amendment.</p> <p>The sensitive places listed in SB 24-131 have been historically recognized in state, local, and federal legislation as places where firearms should not be carried. For example, in 1824, the University of Virginia prohibited weapons or arms of any kind on campus. James Madison, who authored the Second Amendment, was present when this rule was issued and made no objection. In 1870, Texas prohibited carrying firearms in churches, schools, or any public assembly. In 1883, Missouri passed a similar law. In 1901, Arizona prohibited the carrying of firearms in churches, schools, shows, public exhibitions, and any place where intoxicating liquors are sold. There are over 100 laws dating back to the 1800s from states, localities, and the federal government prohibiting the carrying of firearms in parks.</p> <p>Colorado citizens should be able to feel safe bringing their families to parks, schools, stadiums, libraries, and hospitals without worrying about gun violence. I ask for your yes vote on this bill to remove guns from spaces where they don't belong.</p>
<p>Tiffany Taylor Against themselves</p>	<p>Warren V District of Columbia and 2 other Court cases the court ruled police do not have a constitutional duty to provide services to individuals. Fear as scary as that feeling feels doesnt allow you to infringe on our inalienable right. Which is why I am my own first responder, and protector first and foremost. Police can not always be there for you! This bill infringes upon the Second Amendment right to bear arms, as it restricts law-abiding citizens' ability to carry firearms in public places for self-defense. This violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by arbitrarily discriminating against law-abiding citizens who wish to carry firearms for self-defense in certain public places. This bill unfairly targets a specific group of individuals based on their exercise of a constitutional right, without sufficient justification or evidence of a rational basis for the discrimination. This bill poses an undue burden on the fundamental right to self-defense without providing adequate alternative means of protection in these public spaces. I just heard a bill in committee earlier on the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses but here we are taking away their ability to conceal carry. All the bills for gun legislation in Colorado this session do is make people more vulnerable by making even softer targets via gun</p>

	<p>free zones. Disarming law abiding citizens, specifically the next generation all the while banning guards or officers in schools that could protect our children. None of these bills are good for Colorado please vote NO on.</p> <p>SB24-131</p>
<p>Huey Laugesen Against Colorado State Shooting Association</p>	<p>My name is Huey Laugesen and I am the executive director of the Colorado State Shooting Association (the state association of the NRA). I submit this testimony on behalf of our members in all 64 of Colorado’s counties to strongly oppose this bill. I will start by sharing an excerpt from an op-ed written by our organization's vice president.</p> <p>“On December 29th, 2019, 71-year-old Jack Wilson had a bad feeling about a conspicuous-looking man in a long coat who entered his church in Texas. As that man approached a communion server, pulled a shotgun out of his coat and began firing, Wilson was already reaching for his own firearm.</p> <p>Aiming at the attacker, Wilson waited for the moment that he had a clear line of fire absent of bystanders. When that moment came, Wilson fired one round and eliminated the threat.</p> <p>Two congregants were tragically killed in this senseless act of violence committed by the man in the coat. But thanks to Wilson’s heroism, it all ended before the culprit could claim more lives. How many more innocent people would have perished if Wilson wasn’t armed and ready to respond?</p> <p>A previous event similar to this one suggests that the death toll could’ve been far greater. In fact, Wilson was only permitted to carry the firearm that he used to take down the shooter because the State of Texas, in response to a 2017 Sutherland Springs church shooting which left 26 dead, had recently changed its laws to allow gun owners to carry handguns inside houses of worship.</p> <p>Texas did this to enable good people to defend innocent lives. Jack Wilson showed us that it was the right decision.”</p>

	<p>We the People have a right to carry firearms given to us by God, enshrined in our Constitution, and affirmed by the Supreme Court's Bruen ruling.</p> <p>Esteemed members of the committee: you are faced with an important decision. To attempt to revoke the right of good people to defend themselves and others, or to affirm it.</p> <p>Do the right thing and vote "NO" on this infringement of our rights. History is watching.</p>
<p>Corinne Kerkezian Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello, I am a trans woman and am adamantly opposed to this bill as it will make much more difficult for minority groups like trans people such as myself to feel safe. This proposition only punishes lawful citizens and especially marginalized people as it does nothing but increase risk for those who choose to help ensure their safety and the safety of those around the concealed carrier. Criminals and extremists will focus on easy targets, of which this piece of proposed legislation will make many more. With the rise of right wing extremism in America at large and even in our own communities in Colorado this proposed legislation as well as the proposed assault weapons ban are in extremely naive and poor taste. These would do nothing but further compromise the safety and security of communities targeted by these conservative extremist groups by limiting the marginalized citizen's ability to protect themselves and those around them. Please look up the rhetoric many of these extremists increasingly use, it is the language of extreme violence and hate. Many of these extremists openly state their desire to murder queer people such as myself. Please help ensure the safety of the LGBT+ community and other marginalized communities in our state by opposing this legislation.</p>
<p>Daniel Foster Against themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senator Rodriguez, Please defeat SB24-131. Many evil people have been stopped in all of the places on this bill merely because a concealed carry licensed law-abiding citizen showed the evil one a weapon aimed in his direction. Most of these evil people are cowards and turn and run. Ask any security guard and they will verify. All this bill accomplishes is to let evil ones know it is safe for them do evil acts in these places which just happen to be places many rapes, kidnappings, and shootings occur! I am in favor of HB24-1174. My instructor required a trip to shoot before granting anyone in our class the license and that makes sense to me. Another bill HB24-1310 is another that most definitely needs to be defeated. Again, it says to all wanting to shoot people, "Come in here, no one will have a weapon."</p>

	Or at least you can know where they are and go to the other end of the building to start mowing people down. Thank you!
<p>Katherine Czukas For themselves</p>	<p>Esteemed committee members,</p> <p>My name is Katherine Czukas, I live in Colorado Springs, where I have school aged children. Thank you for taking the time to hear from citizens about SB24-131. I am in favor of this bill.</p> <p>Over the past 15 years, my children have attended both pre-school and summer programs at UCCS, our local university. The pikes peak library district is a place our family feels comfortable spending time, whether studying, reading, gaming or creating at the maker space.</p> <p>My children attended public schools in Academy District 20. These are spaces where currently concealed carry of firearms is allowed or is being considered. Please help protect all children from adults who could potentially mis-use their concealed firearm in these sensitive spaces.</p> <p>Since 2020, I've had the honor of being an election judge in El Paso County. I am a temporary worker for the county, working long hours in VSPCs alongside other temporary workers. Temporary workers staff VSPCs for the "neediest" 1 percent of voters - those with challenges to the mail-out ballot system - due to dexterity or vision issues, challenging residential addresses, or having situations where they are new to the Colorado voting process. VSPCs serve them all.</p> <p>In a county of 700,000 people, we have dozens of VSPCs, many are in public county buildings where concealed carry is allowed.</p> <p>Concealed carry is allowed in a polling place.</p> <p>Temporary workers charged with upholding democracy are working where another citizen could be bringing in a weapon and potentially mis-using it. This doesn't make sense, it endangers election judges and the election process.</p> <p>Please I urge you to pass legislation to keep firearms out of sensitive spaces like VSPCs, county buildings, libraries, universities and public schools.</p>

	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Kathleen Troka For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representative</p> <p>Currently in D20 our BOE members are trying to institute the FASTER program into our schools. I think this is a foolhardy option, especially when these same Board members, Aaron Salt, Amy Shandy, Derrick Wilburn, Nicole Konz and Lauren Yanez didn't support the MLO at our last election which would have provided the funds to pay additional trained SROs. It is my belief they are trying to funnel tax dollars into private institutions. In addition, I believe it is foolhardy to expect individuals to complete 3 days of training and be qualified to police our halls armed. Teachers shouldn't have the additional responsibility of carry arms when they are emotionally invested in their students and already over worked and underpaid. How will we get insurance from our schools? Who will pay for the expensive firearms and ammunition? Who will inspect said firearms? Please vote YES for SB24-131. Please, listen to parents of students, not the gun lobbyists. Thank you</p>
<p>Zachary Perrego Against themselves</p>	<p>To my elected representatives,</p> <p>I am writing to express my staunch opposition to this bill.</p> <p>The supreme court has decided long ago that law enforcement has no duty to protect the public. Therefore, stripping law abiding citizens of the ability to protect themselves in these so-called "sensitive" spaces is wholly incorrect.</p> <p>Unless the state is to provide private, armed security while in these places, free of charge to the citizens, then I see no way you can expect to strip them of their rights to defend themselves.</p> <p>Time and time again we see that law abiding concealed carry citizens stop an active shooter long before law enforcement is able to arrive at the scene, as we can see in the Indiana mall shooting (https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/what-we-know-about-the-armed-civilian-who-killed-greenwood-gunman) and the Texas church shooting (https://abcnews.go.com/US/parishioner-</p>

	<p>gunned-texas-church-shooter-hero/story?id=67982047) recently. To disregard these situations is frankly dangerous to your constituents.</p> <p>I urge you to vote down this bill to protect your constituent's rights to defend themselves.</p> <p>Best regards, Zachary Perrego</p>
<p>Brent Sallee Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello. I am pursuing my concealed handgun permit because I have found that my local police (CSPD) are unable to respond to serious calls in a timely manner. There have been several events where 911 is unable to dispatch to very serious incidents, including those of obvious violent threats. These have told me that the police are unable to assist me in life or death situations. I myself have been placed on hold with 911 for > 45 minutes at least 3 times. These events involved an drunk driver, suspected dead individual, and a near-hit of my toddler by illegal ATVs in an open space. I find these to be serious enough to warrant a prompter response.</p> <p>Further historical examples include a complete lack of response of police to respond to a hostage situation, resulting in murder of that hostage https://www.9news.com/article/news/crime/colorado-springs-police-didnt-respond-911-hostage-report/73-be504fb8-7432-4587-b638-c9f6faa90978). Another example is that of a woman calling 911 to report an unstable man carrying a rifle and threatening people. The man with the rifle ended up killing a bicyclist in cold blood (https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/woman-warned-man-rifle-colorado-shooting-n457711). These are unacceptable and potentially avoidable with licensed gun holders, who know the scope of the law, available to act.</p> <p>As a result, I have pursued my CHP to allow me to be a timely defender of my home and family wherever we go. The bill proposed goes beyond reasonable restriction. There are currently sufficient restrictions in place, prohibiting carrying into courthouses, government buildings, and schools. These are set as law already. Expanding that list nullifies the ability of a licensed and registered, law abiding citizen to protect himself or others under dire situations. Criminals will not abide by these laws and sensitive spaces will continue to experience gun violence. Law abiding concealed handgun permit holders are responsible for an extremely low percentage of</p>

	<p>actual gun violence and a lower percentage of illegal bodily harm. Expansion of sensitive places was just attempted in CA and, in part, blocked by a federal judge (https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/20/us/california-gun-law/index.html). These expansions go beyond what is legal and only limit those who follow law.</p> <p>With this, I urge you to vote against this new bill severely restricting law-abiding gun owners with a license to carry from protecting themselves and others from dangerous individuals.</p>
<p>Dee Fleming Against themselves</p>	<p>The Constitution specifically addresses my right to carry a firearm. My right shall not be infringed.</p> <p>These 'gun laws' simply make targets of citizens. Criminals tend to ignore them. Please stop trying to legislate away my rights because these are some gun deaths. For example, there are vehicle deaths. I see no planned legislation to remove vehicles and shut down the car lots that sell them.</p> <p>To summarize, stop attempting to take my rights away. They are not the government's to take away.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Susan Enfield For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Chair Gonzales and Committee members,</p> <p>I'm a longtime resident, voter, and constituent submitting this testimony supporting SB24-131, Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces.</p> <p>Enhancing public safety is our government and community's primary goal and responsibility. This bill is a common-sense step in the right direction. Legal restrictions on carrying firearms in bars exist in 32 states, including TX, SD, ND, KY, FL, and AK.</p> <p>I'm also concerned firearms are allowed (including concealed carry) on campus at CU Boulder, where my 22-year-old son is a student. My son, other students, faculty, and staff should not have to worry about safety while attending class and learning sometimes controversial topics.</p> <p>I urge you to vote yes on SB-131.</p>

	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak up about this important public safety matter.</p> <p>Susan Enfield</p>
<p>Zachary Perrego Against themselves</p>	<p>To my elected representatives,</p> <p>I oppose this bill, I think churches in particular are vulnerable spaces and deserve to be hard targets and not the soft targets as this bill would make them.</p> <p>We have heard from the Supreme Court that local law enforcement have no duty to protect the public, so it is completely wrong to strip the private citizen of their ability to protect themselves.</p> <p>We can see from the Indiana mall shooting (https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/crime/what-we-know-about-the-armed-civilian-who-killed-greenwood-gunman) as well as the Texas church shootings (https://abcnews.go.com/US/parishioner-gunned-texas-church-shooter-hero/story?id=67982047) that good citizens with guns stop bad guys with guns well before law enforcement are able to arrive. Please take these real life examples into account.</p> <p>Best regards, Hailey B. Perrego</p>
<p>Cara Goman For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill because I believe fewer guns circulating, especially in these sensitive spaces, will keep our community safer and save lives.</p> <p>I agree that it is just common sense — It’s time to actively work to reduce gun violence and our culture’s obsession with firearms.</p>

	<p>I am a parent of three children, two in elementary school and one toddler. This bill is in an important step in ensuring their future safety.</p>
<p>Dave Jensen Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing in opposition to SB24-131.</p> <p>The right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to Americans. The Second Amendment was not intended for hunting, but rather to deter bad people, organizations, and governments from acting unbecomingly.</p> <p>Limiting where law-abiding can carry doesn't reduce crime ... it encourages it! This bill creates safe places for criminals and dangerous places for everyone else.</p> <p>Constitutional carry should be the law of the land. Until then, citizens who have earned concealed carry permits must be allowed to carry as often as possible.</p> <p>I sincerely hope you'll consider my perspective and my Constitutional Rights,</p> <p>Dave Jensen</p>
<p>Robert Bonnell Against themselves</p>	<p>I am informing you of my opposition to SB24-131.</p> <p>Shouldn't churches and businesses have a say on firearms on their premises? The state should not dictate that to churches and businesses. My church prefers to have armed members and we have had no issues with that.</p> <p>Sorry to say there is no such thing as a Safe zone.</p> <p>If gun free zones worked there would never have been school shootings. Do you really think a law is going to keep criminals from engaging in criminal activity in churches and businesses? By their very definition they ignore laws. Only law abiding citizens obey laws so you will make my church and local businesses less safe if this bill becomes law. Also, if guns were to be banned, sick minds would find a more deadly way to carry out their evil acts. Explosives, poison gas, and numerous other means are at sick people's disposal thanks to the internet.</p> <p>I am a retired law enforcement officer in both Indiana and Colorado so I do know a little about how the criminal mind works. Please reconsider this bill as it is bad for churches and businesses.</p>

	<p>Robert Michael Bonnell</p>
<p>Tyler Weinischke Against themselves</p>	<p>SB24-131 if passed would change the casualties found in tragedies. Most law enforcement agencies have communicated publicly that their response time will vary depending on the incident called in. Let me paint a picture.</p> <p>The church is open to the public, it's a space we desire for people to feel they can come to when in need. It's open for drug addicts, alcoholics, abusive husbands, abusive moms to come seek help for when they feel like they have been unjustly given court orders. They come in potentially under the influence or enraged because they just received information that will change their life in a traumatic way. They come into the church with anger and the person who makes contact calls 9-1-1. IF it is not an immediate threat the police will respond based on the calls that are currently active. Let's say it is someone under the influence. Police has been notified, but it is not a top priority. The person who came in looking for help becomes enraged, they begin to get loud and aggressive. Verbal de-escalation is doing nothing and now it has become a physical altercation. Police are still not on their way. What now? How are you expecting for us to trust that police will be there? They are stretched thin and unable to respond in a timely manner.</p> <p>Look at Uvalde, Nashville or Lakewood. All of which had a range in response time that added to the casualties that occurred in each incident. Look at Uvalde and Nashville and imagine if you had an on-site security team member, who is trained. What would the outcome be? I can imagine you might say well "Lakewood had police on-campus at the time of the incident." Looking at that footage my faith in law enforcement was broken, it showed that the men and women in blue, who I respect, do not have training to deal with an active shooter, or the man power to be everywhere at once.</p> <p>The solution is not to eliminate people's ability to protect. The solution is to allow people to "keep and bear arms." as a father you are asking me to trust and believe that those who have taken an oath will be there when I need them. That's a big ask. That's something that I can not give up. Agencies nation wide are saying they are having a decline in swearing in new officers and new recruits as well as not being allotted the appropriate budget or time to give sufficient training. Uvalde is a prime example. They have said</p>

	<p>unanimously, "We weren't trained for this..." I strongly encourage you to vote AGAINST the passing of SB24-131.</p>
<p>Ronald Cable Against themselves</p>	<p>This Bill is clearly contrary SCOTUS's decision regarding "District of Columbia v. Heller " in that it refutes the Court's finding that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,". I request and urge therefore, that this Bill be defeated.</p>
<p>Tyler Burgett Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I write to you today as a husband, a father of two girls with a son on the way, an Arapahoe county concealed handgun permit holder, and member of my church safety team.</p> <p>I would ask that you not proceed with SB24-131. At a time when police departments around the state are short staffed, more gun free zones are only going to embolden criminals.</p> <p>Recently two armed criminals robbed and pistol whipped a family in the parking lot of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Thankfully the dad had ignored the sign posted at the doors of the museum which prohibits the carrying of firearms, and was able to defend himself and his family with a concealed handgun.</p> <p>CNN has reported that 11:00am on Sunday is one of the most dangerous hours in America. Across the country, communities of faith are being targeted for violence.</p> <p>Senate Bill 2 in California, of which this bill is nearly a carbon copy, was struck down by U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney. Judge Carney noted in his response that people who legally carry guns are "among the most reliable and law-abiding citizens" and they have been through a "vigorous vetting and training process."</p> <p>It is a fact that concealed handgun permit holders are not out causing crime or violence in our communities here in Colorado. Beyond making criminals out of trusted citizens that have submitted themselves for additional screening by law enforcement, I do not understand what this bill seeks to do. It will not prevent crime, it will prevent communities from protecting themselves.</p> <p>To save our cash strapped state from losing the costly legal battle that California has already lost, and to better protect our houses of worship and communities, I would ask you to not proceed with this bill.</p> <p>Respectfully, Tyler Burgett</p>

<p>Greg Trouth Against themselves</p>	<p>To ban the carrying of firearms anywhere offers a soft target for those that would do harm. Assault, robbery, vandalism and death is invited. We, the people, have the right to defend ourselves anywhere and everywhere.</p> <p>Another law to be overturned and put shame on Colorado and the General Assembly.</p>
<p>Joseph Clark Against themselves</p>	<p>As a conceal carry permit approved citizen, I do not agree with limiting my right to protect myself and my family in "sensitive spaces". Crime is high and I reserve the right to protect myself in public. This is nothing more than another restriction against law abiding citizens, as none of your shooting issues come from those of us who follow the law and quietly go about our business peacefully. Not to mention these kinds of restrictions have been shut down as unconstitutional before. This is another example of wasting state resources on a law that will guarantee legal challenges and spend more tax payer money trying to fight in court.</p>
<p>Steven Thatcher Against themselves</p>	<p>SB24-131 is blatantly illegal and unconstitutional. The United States Supreme Court made this abundantly clear in the Bruen decision. The Supreme Court affirmed that the ability to concealed carry in public is a right protected by the 2nd Amendment. They could not have been more clear in their ruling. Either the Colorado legislature is dumb (and subsequently unfit for duty) or they just don't care about the Law. It is another vain attempt to by the party in power to wield their club against those they disagree with. It is nothing more than an attempt to demonize firearms and firearm owners in the State of Colorado. It has ZERO to do with the safety of our communities.</p> <p>Removing the right for law abiding citizens to lawfully concealed carry only empowers those who want to perform acts of evil against our communities. This bill will make all Colorado churches, grocery stores, parks, theaters, stadiums, schools, etc. soft targets overnight as criminals will be emboldened to commit mass murder knowing the first line of defense has been removed. LAW ABIDING CITIZENS CONCEALED CARRYING ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MASS SHOOTINGS. There is ZERO statistical data anywhere that supports the underlying assumption of this bill.</p> <p>How do you plan to enforce this law? Will State police officers be present at every church and park checking citizens to see if they are carrying a firearm? Do you honestly think Officers will waste their time performing a duty that flies in the face of the sacred Oath they took to defend the US Constitution? I will not comply. I will continue</p>

	<p>to carry in your "sensitive places" in order to protect myself and my family.</p> <p>As a Catholic, I and numerous other Catholic parishioners and parishes across the State have been targeted as a result of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Our parishes have been vandalized repeatedly with death threats sent to parishioners, our pastors, and our schools. Why wouldn't we take these threats seriously? Our right to worship is protected by the 1st Amendment and the 1st Amendment is protected by 2nd.</p> <p>Do your job and Vote NO. Or face the ultimate embarrassment of having to be re-educated on basic Constitutional law by Alito and Thomas. WE WILL NOT COMPLY.</p>
<p>Charles Cooper Against themselves</p>	<p>I testify to oppose this bill. This bill if proceeded with will just make these "Safe" places soft targets, and an inviting target for criminals and evil to attack. Churches and Colleges should be the safest most inviting environments. If this bill passes there will be more attacks. Please hear all of the people opposing this bill and find it in your heart to not pass this bill. Unlike what you have done with the Assault Weapons Ban. Thank you.</p>
<p>Joseph Gress Against themselves</p>	<p>I ask that the committee kill this ban on law abiding citizens legally carrying firearms for our protection in more locations. We have seen over the last 20 years that when places are declared "gun free zones" that is exactly where mentally ill, criminal monsters go to hurt people. They people don't want to have a challenge and bravely fight against others that can defend themselves. They want as high a body count as possible to get fame the only way that their twisted minds believe that they can. So they go to "gun free zones" where they know that there will be a delay at least before they face armed opposition.</p> <p>This legislation will do nothing to prevent people willing to commit the crime of murder from carrying arms into these places, but it will make it harder for people that want to defend themselves, their friends and family, and anyone around them. And it will reduce the deterrence effect that our concealed carry laws provide whereby criminals can't know if they are the only armed people in a given place. So rather than making law abiding citizens safer in these "Sensitive Spaces" it will make them less safer.</p>

	<p>I am reminded of the shooting at the Boulder King Soopers 3 years ago. The killer was living in Arvada, but drove all the way to Boulder to indiscriminately kill people in a grocery store. Why? he passed by many other grocery stores and even other King Soopers. However the odds of a private citizen carrying a firearm and able to defend themselves was much lower in Boulder than Arvada.</p> <p>Or the Walmart shooting in Thorton more than 6 years ago, where tragically 3 people died, but facing the immediate response of multiple concealed carrying citizens the criminal fled from the scene rather than facing them. There were concerns about how long it took police to clear the scene because of the legally armed citizens at the scene, but that was far better than facing additional deaths.</p> <p>I also remember the New Life Church shooting more than 16 years ago when the criminal was stopped by a member of the church and church security team because she was armed. Do we really want to make her actions illegal and allow the criminal the opportunity to kill more defenseless people?</p> <p>Please for the safety of ourselves and our families, vote no on SB24-131.</p>
<p>Timothy Dyer Against themselves</p>	<p>Please OPPOSE SB124-131!</p> <p>This does nothing to prevent violent crime and prevents the good guys with guns from stopping crime. This is also goes against the separation of church and state. Remember that criminals will not obey the law and will stop at nothing to accomplish their evil deeds. Thank you for listening.</p>
<p>Richard bryce Amend themselves</p>	<p>As a researcher, father, husband, independent voter, and homeowner in Westminster with a concealed handgun permit from Jefferson County:</p> <p>The bill's mention of "Public Park" is overly broad. Does it include State Parks where I may need protection while hiking? Public parks are vital locations for self-defense against violent criminals.</p> <p>"Publicly Owned Park" lacks clarity. Who owns it? Municipalities, Colorado state, or federal government? This ambiguity is constitutionally vague.</p>

	<p>"Gatherings and Public Assemblies" are critical for exercising self-defense rights.</p> <p>Ambiguity in "Failure to post signage" leaves CHP holders vulnerable without clarity on who's at fault.</p> <p>"Museums, etc." and "Libraries" are places where self-defense is crucial, as evidenced by recent incidents.</p> <p>Please remove these locations from the bill or vote NO.</p>
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To the Colorado General Assembly,

My name is Orion Capela. Today, I would like to urge you to vote for **SB24-131**, which prohibits carrying firearms, both openly and concealed, in sensitive and public spaces.

I would also like to share a little bit about myself to explain why I think this bill is important. I am a current student at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. I was also born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Eight months before I was born, the Columbine shooting occurred. I have lived my entire life under the threat of a school shooting reoccurring, and on February 16th, 2024, it finally happened.

However, schools are not the only places where gun violence occurs. In 2012, a shooter opened fire in a movie theater in Aurora, Denver. In 2015, a mass shooting occurred at the Planned Parenthood a mile from my home, which is the same Planned Parenthood that provides me access to medication, like birth control and needles for my hormone replacement therapy. In 2022, yet another mass shooting occurred at Club Q, the only gay bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There are almost no areas of public life that have not been threatened by gun violence in Colorado, so my question to you is how many more people have to die to prove that something needs to be done?

The only one of these shootings that occurred under a legal weapon ban was the Columbine Shooting. The 1994-2004 Federal Assault Weapons Ban was fraught with various legal challenges, and there is currently little to no research that proves it had any impact on the rates of gun violence. This new bill, however, has the capacity to be more protective because the proposed ban is not linked to bullet carrying capacity and there is a legal precedent with HB22-1086, The Vote Without Fear Act, passed in 2022.

Samuel Knopp and Celie Rain Montgomery should still be alive. Daniel Aston, Kelly Loving, Raymond Green Vance, Ashley Paugh, and Derrick Rump should still be alive. Jennifer Markovsky, Garrett Swasey, and Ke'Arre M. Stewart should still be alive. Rebecca Ann Wingo, Alex Matthew Sullivan, Alexander Jonathan Boik, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, Jessica Ghawi, Gordon Cowden, Micayla Medek, Jonathan Blunk, Jesse E. Childress, John Thomas Larimer, Matt McQuinn, and Alexander C. Teves should still be alive. Rachel Scott, Daniel Rohrbough, William David Sanders, Kyle Velasquez, Steven Curnow, Cassie Bernall, Isaiah Shoels, Matthew Kechter, Lauren Townsend, John Tomlin, Kelly Fleming, Daniel Mauser, and Corey DePooter should still be alive today. While this list of thirty-five people may seem too long, I want to remind everyone that the list of names of all victims of gun violence throughout the state of Colorado is much, much larger.

Today I want to remind you of the life saving power you hold as the Colorado General Assembly. If you truly are sworn to serve your constituents, should that not also entail preventing their murder? If you are capable of restricting guns to protect the democratic process, you should be equally capable, and more importantly, responsible, for restricting guns to protect the lives of people living in a democratic society. Our lives don't only matter when we are voting you into office, our lives matter when we spend time with our friends, when we want to get an education, and when we want access to medical resources. This bill allows us to take one step closer to protecting those special moments. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I urge you to vote in favor of ***SB24-131***.

Sincerely,

Orion Capela

March 10, 2024

Written Testimony: SB24-131

Submitted by: Paige Leonard, Boulder

Thank you Committee Members for reading my testimony in support of SB24-131, "Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces."

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), gun-related injuries became the leading cause of death among children and adolescents in 2020. This statistic is sobering and sickening to any parent, only fueling our anxiety for the safety of our children.

Parents want a law that prohibits the open carrying of firearms in sensitive places. We shouldn't have to worry about encountering a person with a firearm when we take our kids to a playground, go to the zoo, or a sporting event. When my kids want to go to a Rockies game, my first thought is, "is it safe?" This shouldn't have to be our first thought. Allowing guns into parks where children play, at college and school campuses and places of worship puts us ALL at risk.

Let's join other states that have made prohibiting firearms in sensitive places a priority.

- 32 states have restricted firearms in bars
- 18 states have laws restricting firearms in places of worship
- 15 states have restrictions on the carrying of firearms in childcare facilities and facilities primarily serving children
- 16 states protect their hospitals and medical offices from the carrying of weapons in those facilities

You have the opportunity to make Colorado a safer state to live in. Please vote YES on SB24-131 and keep firearms out of sensitive places, especially for children and families. Thank you for your time and commitment to improving the safety of our community.

3/20/2024

To the Colorado General Assembly,

My name is Kane Ruiz. I live in Colorado Springs, and I am a student at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs (*UCCS*). I am writing this to express my support for **SB24-131**, which prohibits one to carry firearms, both openly and concealed, in sensitive and public spaces.

I urge you to vote in favor of **SB24-131**. As I mentioned, I am a current student at UCCS, and gun violence took place at my university on *Friday, February 16th*. The homicide took place on campus inside of student housing. While this is an isolated incident, and UCCS has not had an incident like this in the past, I believe that the loss of one of our students and a community member is far more than enough to enact change. In the aftermath, some students on campus have begun talking about how they want to conceal carry when they're on campus, and others wish to begin the process of obtaining a firearm. Our campus is fortunate enough to have a sparse history of gun violence, and I do not believe that having more guns on campus will create the intended feeling of safety. Students having guns on campus will not prevent gun violence, but rather keeping them off our campus will.

According to various studies done by the **Pew Research Center**, some as recent as 2023, more than 50% of Americans wish for stricter gun laws, more than 50% of Americans say that it is too easy to obtain a gun, and more than 50% of Americans agree that there is a gun violence issue in our country. The majority wish for more restrictions, for gun violence prevention bills to be passed, and for UCCS, it can start here with **SB24-131** being passed. You have the responsibility to represent the interest of your constituents, **not your own personal interests**, and your constituents are asking for the ability to be safe where they live, safe where they go to school, safe to go to movies, and safe to exist without fear.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I urge and hope that you vote in favor of ***SB24-131***.

3/13/2024

To the Colorado General Assembly,

My name is Kane Ruiz. I live in Colorado Springs, and I am a student at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs (*UCCS*). I am writing this to express my support for **SB24-131**, which prohibits one to carry firearms, both openly and concealed, in sensitive and public spaces.

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Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I urge and hope that you vote in favor of ***SB24-131***.

Dear Committee,

Oppose SB24-131 the Prohibiting of Carrying Firearms in public places. Let's call this Bill what it is, a tantrum response to the New York V. Bruen decision. The data shows that Concealed Carry or permit holders are a demographic with the lowest crime rates in society. With that information available everywhere why are we creating a law that specifically targets them? When a violent criminal uses a firearm in the commission of a crime, we know they aren't concerned with obtaining a permit or even have one so why would they be concerned about where they commit that crime? There is no data to show that this is even a feasible or even should be entertained as a solution to lowering violent crime and saving lives. Ten years the same people have enacted the same types of laws in Colorado and Violent Crime has risen, you have failed it is time for a new approach by punishing Violent criminals not the safest law-abiding demographic. Oppose SB24-131.

Written testimony on SB24-131, Safe Zones for Mass Shooters and Other Violent Criminals

Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee
March 20, 2024

By David Kopel
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Senate Bill 24-131 proposes to criminalize licensed carry in many locations. Section 6 of the bill, the “safety clause,” “declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.” The opposite is true. The bill is an immediate threat to public safety.

- Five out of six mass shooters choose “gun-free zones,” and the bill creates many more of them.
- Even the leading anti-gun expert witness nationally states that the 2003 Concealed Carry Act reduced violent crime in Colorado by 1.2%. The bill creates many safe zones where criminals can attack without risk of armed citizens being able to fight back.
- The bill is ridiculously overbroad. For example, it bans licensed carry from the entire parking lot of a shopping mall, if the mall contains one small branch bank.
- The bill does not advance public safety but instead is an expression of culture war malice.
- Coloradans with licensed carry permits are far more law-abiding than the general population. They are 39 times less likely to be arrested than someone without a carry permit.
- Data from other states are similar: persons with a license to carry are very highly law-abiding compared to persons without permits.
- The Violence Policy Center’s claims against licensed carry are bogus.

Mass shooters prefer gun-free zones

A *Washington Post* fact-check examined claims about mass public shootings in “gun-free zones.” According to the *Post*, “we found that about 86 percent of mass public shootings took place in gun-free zones from 2009 to 2016.”¹

Because 5 out of 6 mass public shooters prefer “gun-free zones,” it is almost inevitable that the drastic expansion of “gun-free zones” in SB24-131 will result in more mass public shootings.

The 2003 Concealed Carry Act reduced Colorado violent crime by 1.2%

Stanford professor John J. Donahue is a prolific researcher and advocate for gun control. He testifies often as an expert court witness in support of gun control, for his studies always find that gun control is beneficial. He is a vigorous opponent of the right to carry, which, based on national data, he says is harmful. He cannot be accused of having a “pro-gun” bias. Yet even professor Donahue, in his research regarding the effects of Colorado’s 2003 Concealed Carry Act, found that the Act resulted in a 1.2% *decrease* in violent crime in Colorado.²

Perhaps one reason for Colorado’s superior performance compared to some other states in prof. Donahue’s study is that Colorado law allows sheriffs to make discretionary denials and revocations — if the discretion is properly applied. The sheriff may deny a carry-permit application if the sheriff “has a reasonable belief that documented previous behavior by the applicant makes it likely the applicant will present a danger to self or others.”³ In case of a

¹ Meg Kelly, *Do 98 percent of mass public shootings happen in gun-free zones?*, *Washington Post*, May 10, 2018. As the article explains, the 86% figure is based on the following definitions: a “mass shooting” involves four or people, other than the attacker, being killed; “public” does not include private residences; shootings that are part of drug or gang activity or some other crime (e.g., a robbery) are excluded; “gun-free zone” means a place where ordinary citizens are forbidden to carry.

² To quote the Colorado table from his paper: “Colorado: Violent crime rate. Effect of 2003 RTC Law 10 Years After Adoption: -1.2%.” John J. Donohue, Abhay Aneja, & Kyle D. Weber, *Right-To-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis*, National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 23510, p. 86, figure I4 (June 2017, revised Nov. 2018), <http://www.nber.org/papers/w23510>.

³ C.R.S. § 18-12-203.

denial, the applicant can appeal to a court, and the burden of proof is on the sheriff.⁴

This provision is informally called “the naked man rule,” meaning that the sheriff can deny a permit to the man who sits naked in his front yard, muttering about the Martians, but who has a clean record. The County Sheriffs of Colorado deemed it essential that the Concealed Carry Act include the naked-man rule.

In Colorado in 2023, there were 29,984 violent crimes.⁵ Thus, if Colorado’s Concealed Carry Act were repealed, violent crime would be expected to rise by about 1.2%. This would mean 360 more violent crimes annually, or about one per day.

SB24-131 does not completely repeal the Concealed Carry Act, but it partially repeals the ability of people to protect themselves in many of the places where they are most vulnerable. For example, woman who goes jogging or walking in parks in early mornings would be prevented from defending herself.⁶

SB24-131 guarantees that violent attackers will be safe from the danger of being shot by armed citizens, as long as the attackers choose to attack in the locations specified in the bill.

The breadth of areas banned for licensed carry is contrary to public safety.

Suppose a strip mall has a dozen businesses, one of which is a tavern. Under SB24-131, then all the patrons of any business at the strip mall would be prohibited from carrying a firearm for protection in the shared parking lot.⁷ The same is true for mall parking lots if one of the businesses in the mall is a branch bank.⁸

⁴ C.R.S. § 18-12-207.

⁵ Colo. Dept. of Public Safety, Violent Crime - Colorado - 2023, <https://coloradocrimestats.state.co.us/tops/report/violent-crimes/colorado/2023>.

⁶ SB24-131, proposed CRS § 18-12-105.2(1)(a).

⁷ *Id.* § 18-12-105.2(1) (“in any of the following locations , including their adjacent parking areas”); (j) (“an establishment licensed pursuant to article 3 of title 44 to sell alcohol beverages to customers for consumption on the premises and that is not required have meals available for consumption”).

⁸ *Id.* § 18-12-105.2(1)(f).

Banks, like all other private businesses, have always had the right to prohibit licensed carry on their premises, and some do. The California Attorney General is currently litigating a challenge to California SB2, on which Colorado SB24-131 is modeled. In that litigation, Attorney General Rob Bonta has admitted that California cannot provide “evidence of ‘a single bank robbery or other crime at a bank committed by a CCW permit holder.’”⁹

Given that in the entire history of the United States, there is no instance of a licensed handgun carrier committing a crime at a bank, what is the logic of SB24-131 imposing a prohibition, over-riding the decisions of many banks? What is the logic of prohibiting self-defense in every inch of a shopping mall parking lot just because the mall includes one small branch bank?

The “logic” is animus, not safety. SB24-131 is pleasing to aggressive culture war bigots who agree with the head of the Giffords organization: “No More Guns. Gone.”¹⁰

While SB24-131 delivers psychic satisfaction to people who oppose civil rights, the price of their satisfaction will be paid by the increased numbers of victims of homicides, rapes, robberies, and assaults. SB24-131 turns vast areas of public spaces into the types of spaces preferred by 5 out of 6 mass shooters, and (if Professor Donahue is correct) will lead to more violent crime in general.

Contrary to the malicious premise of SB24-131, data about concealed carry licensees in Colorado and other states shows that licensees are exceptionally law-abiding compared to the non-licensed population, as will be detailed in the remainder of this testimony.

A Colorado resident with a concealed handgun permit is 39 times less likely to be arrested than a person without a permit.

In Colorado, a concealed handgun permit (CHP) is issued only to persons 21 and over. Roughly speaking, among the Colorado population 21 and over, an adult with a concealed handgun permit is about 39 times less likely to be arrested than an adult without a CHP. The data are as follows.

⁹ Cal. Attorney General reply brief, at 28 in *Carralero v. Bonta*, Nos. 23-4354 and 23-4356 (9th Cir., Mar. 8, 2024). California is appealing from a U.S. District Court decision holding most of SB2 to be unconstitutional.

¹⁰ Philip Elliott, *No More Guns. Gone: Why Gabby Giffords Isn't Giving Up*, Time, Apr. 26, 2023, <https://time.com/6274979/gabby-giffords-gun-control/>.

The 2003 statute creating Colorado’s current system of licensed carry required sheriffs to make annual reports to the legislature.¹¹ For 2020, the statewide total was 37,909 new permits issued, and 23,141 renewals. (Permits are valid for 5 years.) In that same period, there were 348 revocations. The majority (196) were for arrests. In Denver, there were 1,685 permits issued and 470 renewals. There was one revocation of a Denver permit in 2020, under the category “mental illness or addiction.”¹²

The figures for 2019 are similar: statewide 23,250 new licenses; 24,473 renewals; and 377 revocations. There were two revocations in Denver, both for arrest.¹³ Likewise in 2018: 25,643 new licenses; 35,141 renewals; and 537 revocations. Seven revocations in Denver, six for arrest, and one for restraining order.¹⁴ An arrest that leads to a revocation does not necessarily involve misuse of a firearm; anything that, if leading to a conviction, would make the person ineligible for a carry permit would be sufficient.

The FBI annually publishes the report *Crime in the United States*.¹⁵ In Colorado in 2019 there were 178,985 arrests of persons over 18.¹⁶ Nationally, about 8.6% of adult crimes are perpetrated by persons ages 18 to 20. So to estimate Colorado arrests for adults 21 and over, we reduce the 179,985 arrests for persons 18 and older by 8.6%.¹⁷ The resulting figure is 163,592 Colorado arrests of persons 21 and older in 2019.

¹¹ C.R.S. § 18-12-206(4). The annual reports are available at: https://www.coloradosheriffs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46:concealed-handgun-permits&catid=20:site-content&Itemid=137

¹² <https://www.coloradosheriffs.org/assets/docs/2020%20CHP%20Report%20.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.coloradosheriffs.org/assets/docs/2019%20CHP%20Report%20.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.coloradosheriffs.org/assets/docs/2018%20CHP%20Report.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019>

¹⁶ <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-69>. There were 195,870 total arrests, from which I subtracted the 16,885 arrests of persons under 18.

¹⁷ The FBI Colorado data do not break down arrests into smaller age bands. So I used national data to estimate the number of arrests of persons 18-20, and remove them from the figures. The following data are based on the *Statistical Briefing Book* published by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency. https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/crime/ucr.asp?table_in=1. In 2019, there were 9,388,590 offenses by person 18 or older. Of these, 807,210 were perpetrated by persons ages 18 to 20. So persons 18 to 20 perpetrated about 8.6% of all adult offenses.

According to the Census Bureau, Colorado's population in 2019 was 5,758,736. Of these, 4,205,643 were age 20 or older.¹⁸ Subtracting the approximately 75,553 persons of age 20 gives us 4,130,090 persons aged 21 and older.¹⁹

Thus, the figures for 2019 are: Coloradans aged 21 and older: 4,130,090. Arrests in this group: 163,592. Result: one arrest per 25 persons

Coloradans with concealed handgun permits, for which the minimum age is 21: 233,606 CHP holders.²⁰ Permit revocations based on arrest: 237. Result: one arrest per 986 persons.

That means that Coloradans *without* a concealed handgun permit are about 39 times more likely to be arrested than persons who have a CHP. There is one arrest per 25 persons for the general population, versus one arrest per 986 persons for CHP holders.²¹

The reason is obvious: concealed carry is, by its nature, virtually impossible to detect, unless a person walks through a metal detector or is frisked by the police. Obtaining a concealed carry permit requires hundreds of dollars in fees and expenses, including for training, as well as the post-training hours necessary to go through the permitting process. In Denver, applicants often must go through long waits even to schedule appointments for fingerprinting and filing an application. The only people who bother to go through the onerous

¹⁸ Go to <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html>. Click "Colorado." This will open an Excel spreadsheet with the data. The age data are divided into 5-year bands. I subtracted all age categories for persons younger than "20 to 24 years."

¹⁹ The Census Bureau showed 377,765 persons in Colorado ages 20 to 24. Assuming that 20-year-olds constitute about one-fifth of this five-year age group, there were about 75,553 Coloradans age 20 in 2019.

²⁰ According to the County Sheriffs of Colorado reports, the 2018-20 average for renewals was 27,585 annually. The average of new permits for 2018 and 2019 was 24,446. (For figuring extant permits in 2019, I did not include the 2020 figures in the average, because new permits increased in 2020, due to heightened concerns about public safety that year.) For 2019, I estimated the total number of permits extant permits as follows: Older permits in the five-year renewal cycle $27,585 \times 5 \text{ years} = 137,925$. Plus new permits issued in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019: $24,446 \times 4 = 97,784$. Total = 235,709. From this we subtract the revocations, which in 2018-20 averaged 420.6 per year. Or 2,103 in the five-year cycle concluding with 2019. So as of 2019, there about 233,606 extant permits.

²¹ It is possible for a person to be arrested more than once in a single year. The data from the FBI and the County Sheriffs do not indicate whether a person was arrested more than once.

Of course not all persons arrested are ultimately found guilty, so permits that were revoked because of a mistaken arrest would presumably be reissued later. The data do not indicate how often this happens.

process are people who are so concerned about legal compliance that they spend significant resources just to obtain a card from the government allowing them to legally do what they could done anyway for free, and with very low risk of being caught. It is no wonder that Colorado’s concealed carry permittees are much more law-abiding than the general population.

Data from other states are similar, as described next, based on how each state reports its data.

Florida

From October 1, 1987, when Florida’s Shall Issue law went into effect, through February 2024, the State issued 6,001,550 concealed weapon licenses. As of February 2024, there were 2,493,237 active permits.²²

In the 36-year period, only 19,740 permits have been permanently revoked.²³ That is 0.329% of the total issued, about 1 in 300.

Illinois

The *Chicago Tribune* in 2020 investigated all known uses of firearms by the 315,000 Illinoisians with permits. The investigation covered both lawful and unlawful uses; it included shooting a firearm and also displaying a firearm to make a legal or illegal threat. The newspaper found 71 such incidents from 2014 and 2020.²⁴

Even if we lived in a world where, as some anti-gun lobbyists would prefer, all defensive firearm use were illegal, the “crime rate” of licensed Illinoisians would be about 1 in 500.²⁵

²² Fla. Dep’t of Agric. & Consumer Servs., Div. of Lic., *Concealed Weapon or Firearm License Summary Report Oct. 1, 1987- Jun. 30, 2023*, at 1 (June 30, 2023), https://ccmedia.fdacs.gov/content/download/7499/file/cw_monthly.pdf. I would like thank attorney Kostas Moras, of the Long Beach, Calif., firm Michel & Associates, for his assistance with the multistate data.

²³ *Id.* Some permits were revoked based on preliminary information, and then reinstated based on more complete information.

²⁴ Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas, *Explore: Shootings by CCL Holders in Illinois Since Concealed Carry Law Went Into Effect in 2014*, Chic. Trib. (Mar. 1, 2020), <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-viz-illinois-ccl-shootings-tracker-20200227-ww4ldqwdjrd2ze63w3vzewioiy-htmlstory.html>.

²⁵ 71 divided by 315,000 = .0225%.

Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety reports that there were 387,013 carry permits in 2021. That year, 80 permittees committed a crime involving a firearm; this includes nonviolent crimes, such as carrying a firearm into a sensitive place.²⁶ This is a rate of about 1 in 500.²⁷

Texas

In Texas as of 2020, there was 1,626,242 carry permits.²⁸ Carry permit holders were 5.6% of the state population, which was 29,145,505.²⁹ According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, licensees accounted for only 114 of the state's 26,304 convictions for serious crimes.³⁰

Thus, for the general Texas population that did *not* have a carry permit, about 1 in 1,000 were convicted of a serious crime in 2020. For permittees, the rate was under 1 in 10,000. A Texan with a concealed carry permit was 13.6 times less likely to be convicted of a serious crime than was a Texan without a carry permit.³¹

Most of the above convictions did not involve any misuse of a firearm. For firearms crimes, the licensee rate was even lower. In 2020 Texas, 1,441 persons

²⁶ Press Release, *BCA Releases 2021 Permit to Carry Annual Report, Data Provided to BCA by Minnesota Law Enforcement Agencies* (Mar. 1, 2022), <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ooc/news-releases/Pages/BCA-Releases-2021-Permit-to-Carry-Annual-Report.aspx>.

²⁷ 80 divided by 387,013 = .0207%. The Department reported 3,863 crimes committed that year by persons with permits, based on an expansive definition of "crime" that includes traffic violations and other misconduct that would not lead to a permit revocation.

²⁸ Tex. Dep't of Pub. Safety, *Active License/Certified Instructor Counts as of December 31, 2020*, at 1 (Dec. 31, 2020), <https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rsd/ltr/reports/actlicandinstr/actvelicandinstr2020.pdf>.

²⁹ U.S. Census Bur., *Texas: 2020 Census, Texas Added Almost 4 Million People in Last Decade* (Aug. 25, 2021), <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/texas-population-change-between-census-decade.html>.

³⁰ Tex. Dep't of Pub. Safety, *Conviction Rates for Handgun License Holders, Reporting Period: 01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020*, at 5 (Feb. 11, 2021), <https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rsd/ltr/reports/convictionratesreport2020.pdf>.

³¹ 29,145,505 total population minus 1,626,242 permit holders = 27,519,263 non-permit Texans. 26,304 convictions minus 114 permittee convictions = 26,190 nonpermittee convictions. 26,190 divided by 27,519,263 = .0952%. For permittees, 114 divided by 1,626,242 = .0070%. For the comparative rate, .0952% divided by .0070% = 13.6

were convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; of these, only 4 had a carry license.³² Thus, the rate of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon by Texas permittees is over 26 times lower than the rate for nonpermittees.³³

Wisconsin

As of 2021, 458,630 concealed carry permits had been issued.³⁴ Of those, 1,334 licenses were revoked.³⁵

Of the revocations, 463 were because the permit holder had moved out of state. There were 332 revocations for the permittee's unlawful use of a controlled substance without any other crime. The remaining 539 revocations included misdemeanors, felonies, involuntary commitments, and other reasons.³⁶ Excluding the revocations for moving to a new state, revocations for any reason having even a tenuous connection to public safety amounted to fewer than 1 in 500 permittees.³⁷

Violence Policy Center claims

The Violence Policy Center is an advocacy organization for prohibition of handguns and many other firearms. Its monograph *Concealed Carry Killers* claims that there were 2,512 “concealed carry killers” from May 2007 to

³² Tex. Dep't of Pub. Safety, *Conviction Rates for Handgun License Holders, Reporting Period: 01/01/2020 – 12/31/2020*, at 5 (Feb. 11, 2021), <https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rsd/ltc/reports/convictionratesreport2020.pdf>.

³³ 1,433 convictions of the 27,519,263 Texans without a carry permit = .00533%. Four convictions of the 1,626,242 Texans with permits = .00025%. For the comparative rate, .00533% divided by .00025% = 21.32.

³⁴ Steven Walters, *The Legacy of Concealed Carry in Wisconsin*, Urban Milwaukee (Oct. 11, 2021), <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2021/10/11/the-state-of-politics-the-legacy-of-concealed-carry-in-wisconsin/>.

³⁵ Wisc. Dep't of Just., *Department of Justice Concealed Carry Annual Report – 175.60(19) – January 1 – December 31, 2022*, at 3, n.8, <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dles/ccw/2022%20Annual%20CCW%20Statistical%20Report.pdf>.

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ 1,334 revocations minus 463 revocations for moving = 871. Dividing 871 by 458,630 permits = .1899%.

January 2024. Of these, 1,505 were suicide victims.³⁸ Suicide is a serious problem, but a suicide by firearm can be committed anywhere, and most take place in the home,³⁹ so the fact that a suicide victim had a carry permit appears to be of scant relevance. Calling suicide victims “killers” is cruel and disparages their memory.

As for the rest, the VPC chooses to omit the locations where the shooting took place. Crimes that take place in a home or other private spaces are irrelevant to legislation about public spaces. Among the “concealed carry killers” the VPC includes persons whose actions were determined to be lawful self-defense. Of the VPC’s claims about 2,512 “concealed carry killers,” approximately one-fifth (544) were criminally convicted. Over the 16-year period in the study, this is 34 per year.

Compare this to the University of Washington’s finding “in 2019 approximately 16 million adult handgun owners had carried a loaded handgun on their person in the past month.”⁴⁰

Homicide rates are typically calculated per 100,000 population. Thirty-four homicides out of a population of 16 million is an annual rate of .21 per 100,000 population. As of 2021, the overall national homicide rate was 7.8 per 100,000 people in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control.⁴¹

Conclusion

If enacted, SB24-131 will certainly be challenged in court, and supporters of the law will have a very difficult time arguing that the bill is necessary because of misconduct by Colorado’s overwhelmingly law-abiding concealed carry licensees. While psychically advantageous to gun prohibition lobbies, the bill is physically dangerous to public safety.

³⁸ Violence Policy Center, *Concealed Carry Killers Background*, <https://concealedcarrykillers.org/concealed-carry-killers-background/>; *see also* <https://concealedcarrykillers.org/> (last visited Mar. 6, 2024) (1,505 of the “concealed carry killers” died by suicide, distinct from the 64 that perpetrated a murder-suicide).

³⁹ “About three-quarters of suicide incidents occur at home.” Harvard University, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Basic Suicide Facts: Where Do Suicides Occur?*, <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/basic-suicide-facts/where/>.

⁴⁰ Kim Eckart, *More US Adults Carrying Loaded Handguns Daily, Study Finds*, U. of Wash. News (Nov. 16, 2022), <https://www.washington.edu/news/2022/11/16/more-u-s-adults-carrying-loaded-handguns-daily-study-finds/>.

⁴¹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, *Assault or Homicide*, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/homicide.htm> (last visited Nov. 9, 2023). The CDC figure includes lawful defensive homicides.