

**Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs**

**04/11/2024 01:30 PM**

**HB24-1348 Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Anthony Daiss Against themselves	I believe you will be hard pressed to find any law abiding gun owning citizen that will disagree that a firearm left unattended in a vehicle should be kept out of plain view. That being said, requiring firearm owners to purchase expensive and possible vehicle altering equipment to secure their firearm is unreasonable. As long as the firearm is not in plain view, that should be sufficient. It should not be our obligation to spend our hard earned funds to make theft more difficult for criminals. Our focus should be enforcing gun theft laws and considering making them even more punitive than they already are. Thank you.
Craig Bauer Against themselves	This is yet another instance of conspiracy against rights. Any and all supporters and signers of this bill are acting outside their constitutional authority and are therefore personally responsible for violating USC TITLE 18 SS 241 Which can carry a death sentence per law. Further, this situation is concurrent with the continuation of communist insurrection that seditious traitors are pursuing specifically outlined in a 1963 congressional hearing. '45 steps to communism' and outlines goals of traitors in state government agencies for communist promotion. These are relevant to current members of this state legislation. You are ordered to disband, abandon and repeal all your current, past and previous legislation that is blatantly outside your constitutional jurisdiction to enact or face consequences outlined in TITLE 18 SS 241 As applicable by law including abolishment, imprisonment, fine or death as applicable to UNITED STATES CODE. CEASE AND DESIST UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTS OF SEDITION AND TREASON IN CONSPIRACY AGAINST MYSELF AND THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
Joseph Pero Against themselves	As a Colorado citizen and your constituent, I ask that you please oppose HB24-1348.  HB 24-1348 mandates that firearms stored in unattended vehicles must be kept in a locked hard-sided container that is kept out of view

	<p>or within the locked trunk of the vehicle. The bill creates civil penalties for infractions.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees my right to bear arms without infringement. Mandatory gun lock laws are an infringement on this right because it restricts my ability to access firearms quickly for self-defense.</p> <p>Again, I urge you to please OPPOSE HB24-1348.</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against Weld County GOP</p>	<p>I am writing to express my firm opposition to proposed legislation HB24-1348, regarding supposed safe vehicle storage. I believe this legislation represents an overreach of government authority and undermines the rights of responsible vehicle owners.</p> <p>Mandating specific storage requirements for vehicles is unnecessary and impractical. Responsible vehicle owners already take measures to ensure the safe storage of their vehicles, whether it be in a garage, driveway, or other secure location. Imposing additional regulations would only burden law-abiding citizens without addressing the root causes of vehicle-related accidents or misuse.</p> <p>Safe vehicle storage legislation is an infringement of individuals' rights to access their vehicles for self-defense or emergency situations. In times of crisis, quick access to a vehicle can be crucial for ensuring personal safety and the safety of loved ones. Mandating storage requirements that impede timely access to vehicles could jeopardize lives and undermine the ability of individuals to protect themselves in emergency situations.</p> <p>The enforcement of such legislation would place an undue burden on law enforcement agencies and divert valuable resources away from addressing more pressing issues. Rather than focusing on punitive measures that target responsible vehicle owners, policymakers should prioritize initiatives that address the root causes of vehicle-related accidents and promote education and awareness about safe vehicle storage practices.</p> <p>I urge you to VOTE NO on HB24-1348, this misguided legislation regarding safe vehicle storage. Let us work together to uphold the rights of responsible vehicle owners and promote policies that address the root causes of vehicle-related accidents without imposing unnecessary regulations or restrictions.</p>

	<p>*** VOTE NO ON HB24-1348 ***</p> <p>Robert Glenn 305 Poudre Bay Windsor, CO</p>
<p>Sheila Wheeler For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Sheila and I am testifying on behalf of myself to strongly ask the committee to vote yes on HB24-1348. This requirement aligns with already-existing best practices for gun owners and ensures that a flow of stolen guns into the hands of youth and other prohibited persons is reduced. As a mom, commercial loan officer and nonprofit employee, I ask the committee to please vote yes. Thank you.</p>
<p>Miguel David Against themselves</p>	<p>I am writing to voice my concern on this bill and get it removed. This does nothing but affect law abiding citizens and gun owners and has nothing to do with stopping criminals and illegal activity. This bill just aims at making it more difficult for citizens to have access and defend themselves. It's as if you want law abiding citizens to not defend themselves but don't even punish criminals. Please stop this attack on our 2A rights immediately. Instead of focusing on preventing law abiding citizens from defending themselves, focus on stopping crime and punishing criminals. No criminal follows the law and obtains legal weapons so please do your actual job.</p>
<p>Jeremiah Reidy Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill punishes victims of crime more than the offenders who are responsible for the theft. The basic premise of the bill is flawed on principal, and everyone should take all reasonable precautionary measures to secure their property, but to regulate what is reasonable is counter to best storage practices for property owners. The passing of this bill makes it an onerous activity to use firearms in the safest manner possible and the adverse effects of this bills passage will not take long to make themselves evident.</p>
<p>Claire Lucas For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you to the committee members for letting me submit my testimony in writing. 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 when there was a hostage situation. 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</p>

	<p>hostage taker shot one student in the head as she tried to escape. He killed her.</p> <p>Just a few years later, the Bailey community was once again impacted by gun violence. This time a High School student accessed an unsecured gun in his home and shot himself on the property after everyone had left for work. He died from gunshot wounds.</p> <p>Safe Gun Storage has been shown to save lives. Whether the gun is in the home or in a vehicle, it is critical that guns are secured so that they are inaccessible to children, teenagers or any unauthorized person.</p> <p>Approximately 380,000 guns are stolen from private owners every year. Research suggests that nearly one quarter of those stolen guns are taken from cars and other vehicles. The number of guns stolen from cars nearly doubled between 2006 and 2015.</p> <p>Passing this commonsense gun law which requires safe storage of guns in vehicles is a step forward in making our communities safer.</p> <p>I ask you to support House Bill 24-1348. Thank you.</p>
<p>Briston Brown Against themselves</p>	<p>Another worthless bill that targets and punishes law abiding gun owners and does nothing to curb criminals. Lawful gun owners are forced at times to place their firearm in their vehicles when unable to proceed in places that prohibit firearms. This does leave an opportunity for criminals to steal a firearm in a vehicle. But instead of adding an additional charge to the criminal and harshly punishing them, you punish the gun owner for doing the right thing and gut punching them when they are out of luck. On top of this bill, it expects gun owners to spend additional money for a safe, again placing more burden on them instead of the criminal. Even if gun owners follow through with placing their gun in a safe, a criminal can still steal the safe in the car and crack it at their leisure. So this in turn still makes a moot law that punishes gun owners and doesn't stop criminals from being criminals. Stop this bill from being passed!</p>
<p>Pamela Brown Against themselves</p>	<p>This is just another awful bill looking to punish gun owners for the wrongs of criminals. It forces gun owners to spend more out of their pocket to get an expensive safe that can still be stolen by a criminal. It doesn't stop the criminals or even adds more punishments to them</p>

	<p>for stealing a firearm. This bill targets all the wrong people and we need to focus on the actual criminals, not the victims of them. Do not pass this bill.</p>
<p>mike drabing Against themselves</p>	<p>Vote NO on this item please!</p>
<p>Thomas Cardinelli Against themselves</p>	<p>Start punishing criminals and not law abiding citizens for others criminal activity. I should not be fined for having my personal property in my vehicle, which is an extension of my home. Democratic views and votes have us where we are with the criminals in the US. Crack down on the problem we already have laws for that you cant uphold first.</p>
<p>Calvin Mauger Against themselves</p>	<p>I urge you to vote against this legislation which is just another attack on the Constitutional Rights of law abiding citizen. I simply cannot understand how you can vote against legislation that would increase the penalty for stealing someone’s firearm out of a vehicle but many support this bill that only affects law abiding citizens, not criminals. It seems to me that the priorities are backwards here. Why side with the criminals and not your constituents?</p> <p>Well I think the answer is obvious. It’s all a political show. Vote how your constituents want. Vote to keep our rights. Vote NO. We are CITIZENS NOT SERFS.</p>
<p>Jennings Cheng Against themselves</p>	<p>As a concerned citizen, I am writing to express my firm opposition to the concept of mandatory safe storage requirements for firearms in cars. While the intention behind such measures may seem noble, I believe they are deeply flawed and pose serious risks to individual liberties and public safety.</p> <p>First and foremost, it is crucial to recognize that the right to bear arms is a fundamental aspect of our Constitution, enshrined in the Second Amendment. Mandating specific storage requirements for firearms in vehicles encroaches upon this constitutional right and undermines the principles of personal responsibility and freedom that are integral to our democracy.</p> <p>Furthermore, imposing rigid storage regulations fails to account for the diverse needs and circumstances of law-abiding gun owners.</p>

	<p>Individuals may need quick access to their firearms for self-defense or emergency situations, and imposing cumbersome storage requirements could potentially hinder their ability to protect themselves and their loved ones effectively.</p> <p>Moreover, it is important to acknowledge that criminals who are intent on obtaining firearms illegally will not be deterred by storage laws. Instead, such regulations only serve to burden law-abiding citizens while doing little to address the root causes of gun violence.</p> <p>Additionally, imposing strict storage requirements in vehicles could inadvertently create additional safety hazards. For instance, locking firearms away in compartments or safes could result in delays during critical moments, such as when a person needs to defend themselves from a threat. In emergency situations, every second counts, and any impediment to accessing a firearm could have dire consequences.</p> <p>Furthermore, enforcing safe storage laws in vehicles would place an undue burden on law enforcement officers tasked with monitoring compliance. This would divert resources away from more pressing issues and contribute to further strain on already overstretched public safety agencies.</p> <p>In conclusion, while the goal of promoting firearm safety is laudable, mandating safe storage in cars is not the solution. Instead, we should focus on comprehensive approaches that address the root causes of gun violence while respecting the rights and responsibilities of law-abiding gun owners. Any measures enacted must strike a balance between public safety and individual freedoms, and mandatory storage requirements in vehicles clearly fail to achieve this balance.</p>
<p>Adam Wiley Against themselves</p>	<p>It is the American's and Coloradan's responsibility to responsibly handle and store their guns. It is not your right nor responsibility to force that. Our culture of violence in America needs to be addressed, while it is currently being ignored. My gun sitting in plain sight inside my car does not force anyone to take it, nor invite them. Address the reasons people commit these crimes, namely stealing guns in this case, rather than pushing this stop-gap solution that irrevocably restricts our freedoms.</p>
<p>Robert Glenn Against</p>	<p>I am writing to express my firm opposition to proposed legislation HB24-1348, regarding supposed safe vehicle storage. I believe this</p>

Weld County GOP	<p>legislation represents an overreach of government authority and undermines the rights of responsible vehicle owners.</p> <p>Mandating specific storage requirements for vehicles is unnecessary and impractical. Responsible vehicle owners already take measures to ensure the safe storage of their vehicles, whether it be in a garage, driveway, or other secure location. Imposing additional regulations would only burden law-abiding citizens without addressing the root causes of vehicle-related accidents or misuse.</p> <p>Safe vehicle storage legislation is an infringement of individuals' rights to access their vehicles for self-defense or emergency situations. In times of crisis, quick access to a vehicle can be crucial for ensuring personal safety and the safety of loved ones. Mandating storage requirements that impede timely access to vehicles could jeopardize lives and undermine the ability of individuals to protect themselves in emergency situations.</p> <p>The enforcement of such legislation would place an undue burden on law enforcement agencies and divert valuable resources away from addressing more pressing issues. Rather than focusing on punitive measures that target responsible vehicle owners, policymakers should prioritize initiatives that address the root causes of vehicle-related accidents and promote education and awareness about safe vehicle storage practices.</p> <p>I urge you to VOTE NO on HB24-1348, this misguided legislation regarding safe vehicle storage. Let us work together to uphold the rights of responsible vehicle owners and promote policies that address the root causes of vehicle-related accidents without imposing unnecessary regulations or restrictions.</p> <p>*** VOTE NO ON HB24-1348 ***</p>
Ronald Hunt Against themselves	<p>This, like all of the other firearms related legislation being introduced this year will do nothing to curb crime, and only serves to punish law abiding citizens. I would urge you to recognize this and vote no.</p>
Pat Rottschaefer For	<p>My name is Pat Rottschaefer and my words are my own. I am a gun violence survivor. 20 years ago my oldest daughter Christie was shot and killed during an argument with her boyfriend. The grief I feel at</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>times even now is undiminished from what I felt on the day I was told Christie was dead.</p> <p>HB24-1348 would require guns be secured inside a vehicle in such a way that they would not contribute to the secondary market for guns in our society. Currently many cars are being broken into and guns within these cars end up in the secondary market for guns where they can be purchased by people who would not be able to pass a background check and thus ought not have those guns. All this bill would do is prevent someone from illicitly getting their hands on guns left in cars.</p> <p>Please vote yes on HB24-1348 to help make Colorado safer for us all.</p>
<p>Keith Emerson Amend themselves</p>	<p>TESTIMONY OF KEITH EMERSON, representing myself, proposing amendments to HB24-1348.</p> <p>It's amazing that some people apparently think that firearm owners leave handguns in plain sight in a locked parked car. It's also interesting that in testimony before the House committee on this bill, the numbers quoted for firearm theft from a vehicle in Denver, when crunched, indicate that more vehicles were stolen with the firearms in them than were broken into and the gun taken.</p> <p>Other than the requirement to not leave a gun in the glove box or center console this bill will have no effect on theft of firearms from vehicles. Be that as it may, this bill is full of exemptions for special interests that should be eliminated as well as some other changes:</p> <p>* P2, Lines 8-13 and 17-26 Suggest combining these two sections: "handgun" and "not a handgun". Either handguns should be allowed the same soft case with a gun lock option as "not a handgun" OR eliminate the soft case option for all firearms, meaning Gifford's "Gun Owners for Safety" members would have to have a hard case for their shotguns.</p> <p>* P3, Line27 to P4, Line 2 Delete this exemption for Hunter Education instructors. They can have firearms stolen out of their vehicles too.</p>

	<p>* P4, Lines 5-10, Delete this exemption for the disabled. If a person can operate a pistol they can get it out of a case.</p> <p>* P 4, Lines 16-21, Delete this section giving a free pass for people who have their firearm stolen. Deleting this statement doesn't mean an assumption that the stolen firearm was stored properly or improperly.</p> <p>* P5, Line 26, Change 1" high to 5/8" high for sign lettering. Its quite visible and that's as big as my printer will print (72 point). It still takes 3 pages to fit all the language proposed to be required.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Keith Emerson Denver, CO</p>
<p>Earl Perry Against themselves</p>	<p>I think it wrongheaded to force this type of storage on firearms owners, People who steal guns, not otherwise law-abiding owners, are the ones who should be penalized for theft. This bill would mainly make firearms inaccessible to people who need them now, rather than in a while.</p>
<p>David Perl Against themselves</p>	<p>Honorable members of the Colorado Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,</p> <p>I am a registered unaffiliated voter, a retired military member (USAF - MSgt - 1984-2004), and a legal, responsible gun owner and concealed carry permit holder.</p> <p>I am aggrieved that the Democratic majority in the House and Senate of Colorado are hell bent on reducing and eliminating our rights as free individuals to exercise our US and Colorado 2nd Amendment rights.</p> <p>Regarding HB24-1348 ("Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle"), I find this proposed legislation to be unnecessary and a burden on law abiding firearm owners.</p>

	<p>What possible problem is this legislation really solving? Where are the crime statistics and news stories that support the need for this law? You won't find anything like this because there is no problem with the method of transporting firearms in a vehicle. It seems to me that any real issue with ongoing gun crime and violence will not be impacted by this act if it becomes law. Criminals will ignore this while the majority of firearm owners - legal, responsible, and safety conscious minded individuals - are now being burdened to buy things they do not need for a problem that does not exist.</p> <p>This legislative proposal strikes me as a single party's unreasonable and fanatical ongoing attempts to infringe on our Federal and state constitutional rights to bear arms. There is a reason more people such as myself are registered as independent (or 'unaffiliated' as in Colorado). I would love to see the majority of committee members take the time to see and understand the bigger picture of what makes us a great nation and state, that the bedrock that makes us such is our basic human rights and freedoms.</p> <p>I trust that this unnecessary and ineffectual piece of legislation will go no further than this committee's hearing today.</p>
<p>Roger Cook Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill endangers law abiding citizens by putting their self defense into a locked box. Maybe if more criminals were behind bars we wouldn't need to worry about criminals being loose and breaking into cars. How about more rules for the criminals and not the law abiding citizens! I oppose any laws that go against our rights to defend ourselves.</p>
<p>Michael Lidmila Against themselves</p>	<p>Anti gun owner bills like this one will make no difference because the criminal could care less, If you really want to make a difference on gun crime go after the criminal and not honest citizens.</p>
<p>jerry blake Against themselves</p>	<p>Requiring law-abiding owners of defensive firearms to lock them away in a box makes it impossible for the owner to access the firearm when confronted by a violent criminal, undercutting the lawful purpose of self defense as guaranteed by the second amendment.</p> <p>Please vote no.</p>

<p>Richard Mack Against himself</p>	<p>My name is Richard Mack, I live in Centennial, CO. Thank you for reading/hearing my testimony today. I ask that you withdraw your support for HB24-1348 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.</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>Matthew Vostrejs Against himself</p>	<p>As a fellow resident of Colorado, I urge you to OPPOSE HB24-1348! This bill will only hinder law-abiding citizens Second Amendment Rights and their ability to defend themselves and does nothing to prevent violence.</p>

Joseph Pero Against themselves	<p>As a Colorado citizen and your constituent, I strongly urge you to oppose HB24-1348.</p> <p>HB 24-1348 mandates that firearms stored in unattended vehicles must be kept in a locked hard-sided container that is kept out of view or within the locked trunk of the vehicle. The bill creates civil penalties for infractions.</p> <p>The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees my right to bear arms without infringement. Mandatory gun lock laws are an infringement on this right because it restricts my ability to access firearms quickly for self-defense.</p> <p>Again, I urge you to OPPOSE HB24-1348.</p>
Gary Travis Against themselves	<p>Senators,</p> <p>As a Colorado voter I urge you to vote against HB24-1348.</p> <p>Gary Travis</p>
Leif Sigstedt Against themselves	<p>This is just another attempt to criminalize otherwise law-abiding citizens for the actions of criminals (e.g., property theft from their car). If they want fewer guns stolen from cars, then hold thieves accountable and keep them locked up. They could also allow people to constitutionally carry their weapon with them so that they don't have to decide between leaving it in their car or breaking the law. In my opinion, this law will not accomplish anything meaningful and is unnecessary since cars are already the equivalent of a giant safe, and they don't stop criminals from breaking in and taking things anyway. I urge you all to not pursue this bill any further.</p>
Missy Espinoza Against themselves	<p>It is my constitutional protected property (firearms), WITHIN my property (car.) VOTE NO</p>
Glenn Massarotti Against themselves	<p>I vehemently oppose this bill. What problem are you trying to solve???</p> <p>This will only serve to make law-abiding citizens less safe.</p>

	Please vote no.
Sean Langlais Against themselves	I am opposed to HB24-1348, Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle. It will only make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to properly defend themselves. Please kill this bill.



April 2024

**TO:** Senate State, Veteran and Military Affairs Committee

**RE:** HB1348--Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle

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 being especially vulnerable to violence involving firearms. Gun safety is a complex issue, one which we need to deal with on many different fronts. Along with other measures Colorado has taken to improve gun safety, HB1348 is a common-sense bill to require safe storage of firearms in an unattended vehicle. This bill may not solve the problem of gun theft, but it will be an important new barrier to would-be thieves. The fewer guns in the wrong hands will benefit women and the community at large.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB 1348 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**

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*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.*

Brady  
840 First St. NE Ste. 400  
Washington, DC 20002



Testimony of Liddy Ballard, State Policy Manager, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence  
Support for HB24-1348 & HB24-1174 before the Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Committee  
April 11, 2024

Dear Chair Weissman, Vice-Chair Bacon, and Distinguished Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works to change the law, change the industry, and change the culture to free America from gun violence. Our organization today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans across the country in the fight to prevent gun violence.

There are evidence-based policy solutions that we know will help to prevent gun violence in Colorado. The bills before you today, HB24-1348 and HB24-1174, will encourage responsible and safe firearm storage practices in vehicles, and enhance the firearms safety training required to qualify for a concealed handgun permit (CHP). Both bills will save lives by updating Colorado's existing code to reflect the danger of storing a firearm unsecured in an unattended vehicle and enhance the firearms safety training requirements for CHP holders, subsequently preventing crime and saving lives. **For these reasons, Brady urges a favorable report on HB24-1348 and HB24-1174.**

**Support: HB24-1348**

Safe storage should not be an imperative only within the home; it is crucial that gun owners store their firearms securely in their vehicles to prevent unintended access and theft. Recent reports show that over 40,000 firearms were stolen out of cars in major cities in 2020.<sup>1</sup> The reality is that it is not only prolific, but on the rise: In an analysis of FBI crime data from 271 cities across 38 states, researchers found that over half (52%) of gun thefts in 2020 were from cars.<sup>2</sup> However, municipalities are not required to report data on guns stolen from vehicles, and often this type of

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<sup>1</sup> Fausset, R. (2023, March 25). *The largest source of stolen guns? Parked cars*. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/25/us/illegal-guns-parked-cars.html>

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 9.

theft goes unreported, meaning numbers are likely much higher. This marks a significant increase from 10 years prior, when less than a quarter (24%) of gun thefts were from cars. This same data reveals that on average, at least one gun is stolen from a car every 15 minutes.<sup>3</sup> But this is not just a national problem – Colorado is suffering too: According to the Denver Police Department, 768 guns were stolen out of vehicles in Denver alone in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

Stolen guns are a large source of firearms that are trafficked into communities already disproportionately impacted by gun violence. Most of the crime in these communities that have been plagued with gun violence are carried out with guns that have been diverted from the legal market. This policy will prevent one of the major sources of those trafficked firearms.

Researchers found a significant negative correlation between the strength of gun laws in a state and their rate of gun thefts from cars; the five cities with the highest rates of gun theft from cars are all in states with especially weak gun laws.<sup>5</sup> Colorado now has the opportunity to protect its constituents by ensuring firearms are safely stored in vehicles.

#### *What HB24-1348 Would Do*

HB24-1348 requires a person to securely store a firearm in an unattended vehicle in either a locked hard-sided container that is placed out of plain view, or in a locked hard-sided container in the locked trunk of the vehicle. For the purpose of this bill, the glove compartment and center console do not qualify as locked hard-sided containers, as they are easily tampered with and an obvious first stop for a thief. Additionally, the bill requires that the office of suicide prevention include a public webpage with information about the unlawful storage of firearms, including in vehicles. The department will also develop a notice to be displayed on the premise of a licensed firearms dealer that informs purchasers of laws related to the unlawful storage of firearms, including in a vehicle. Unlawful storage of a firearm in a vehicle is considered a civil infraction and is therefore punished by a fine of no more than five hundred dollars. The bill has exceptions for peace officers, antique firearms, or a person engaged in lawful hunting activities.

#### **Support: HB24-1174**

Firearms safety training improves public health by ensuring that those armed with firearms have demonstrated competency. It is crucial that those entrusted with carrying a deadly concealed weapon are fully competent and aware of the ramifications and responsibilities of owning and carrying a concealed handgun. In states with weak concealed carry laws, rates of violent crime rose 13-15 percent over 10 years, and in states that loosened their concealed carry permitting

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<sup>3</sup> O'Toole, M., Szkola J., Burd-Sharps, S. (2022, May 9). *Gun thefts from cars: the largest source of stolen guns*. Everytown for Gun Safety. <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-thefts-from-cars-the-largest-source-of-stolen-guns/>

<sup>4</sup> Turner, S. (2023, May 17). *768 guns stolen from cars last year as theft rate rises*. Fox 31 Denver KDVR. <https://kdvr.com/news/local/768-guns-stolen-from-cars-last-year-as-theft-rate-rises/>

<sup>5</sup> See footnote 11.

systems, firearm related assaults increased by 9.5% over a decade.<sup>6,7</sup> Firearms safety training keeps both the firearm carrier and the unarmed public safe, and HB24-1174 provides guidelines for ensuring that safety is at the forefront of the CHP process.

### *What HB24-1174 Would Do*

To qualify for a CHP under current law in Colorado, applicants must submit an application that includes demographic information, fingerprints, and an attestation that they are not prohibited from possessing a firearm. Additionally, applicants must show record of a completed firearm training course; however, there are few explicit requirements for what that course entails. HB 1174 updates the requirements for firearm training courses to include crucial elements such as safe firearm storage, and requires the passage (at a rate of 80%) of a concealed handgun competency exam to ensure that all those carrying a concealed weapon are adequately prepared for the responsibility they are undertaking.

**Brady strongly encourages a favorable report on HB24-1348 and HB24-1174, which mandate that firearms be stored in a securely locked hard-sided container in unattended vehicles and that CHP applicants demonstrate competency through an enhanced safety training course.**

Sincerely,  
Liddy Ballard  
State Policy Manager  
The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

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<sup>6</sup> Donohue, J., Naja, A., & Weber, K. (2017, June). *Right-to-carry laws and violent crime: a comprehensive assessment using panel data and a state-level synthetic control analysis*. (Working Paper No. 23510). National Bureau of Economic Research. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w23510>

<sup>7</sup> Doucette, M., McCourt, A., Crifasi, C., & Webster, D. (2023, March). Impact of changes to concealed-carry weapons laws on fatal and nonfatal violent crime, 1980–2019. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 192(3), 342–355. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwac160>

Testimony in opposition to: HB24-1348 Secure Firearms Storage in a Vehicle.  
Senate State Affairs Committee

Thank you, Chair and Committee

My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado, an NRA-affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety. I am a former U.S. Army officer and vocational rehabilitation counselor. I have a master's degree in psychology, counseling, and guidance.

While we appreciate the efforts of the sponsors, I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration. We believe the bill is dangerous to the people of Colorado, especially in conjunction with SB24-131, which severely limits where concealed carry permit holders may legally exercise their natural right to armed self-defense, which is recognized by the US Constitution.

The bill is dangerous, because HB24-1348 and SB24-131 force concealed carry permit holders to either leave their guns at home or lock their firearms in hard cases out of sight, either in the passenger compartments or the trunks of their vehicles before entering a wide variety of locations posted against concealed carry. These are difficult operations to safely carry out.

Putting a firearm in a hard case in the trunk of a vehicle in a parking lot is not a smart move, since any criminal surveilling the parking lot will realize that something of value is being placed in a more secure storage area. The criminal can then choose either to break into the vehicle, steal the vehicle, or carjack the now presumably unarmed driver. Parking a few blocks away to make the transfer is inconvenient, but marginally better. Of course, it would still be possible for a criminal to observe and follow the unarmed concealed carry permit holder to the posted location and implement one of the three illegal options offered the criminal by this bill.

An alert criminal might also notice a person who takes a little longer to get out of a vehicle and suppose that person was putting a gun in a locked case in the passenger compartment. Again, the criminal gets three illegal choices.

Probably the safest way for a permit holder to comply with both laws and still exercise part of his or her Second Amendment rights, would be to put the gun in a concealed hard case out of sight in the passenger compartment several blocks from the posted location and hope that he or she is not observed. The chilling effect that this awkward, legally-mandated, forced disarmament will have on concealed carry in Colorado is surely not among the intended consequences of the honorable legislators who proposed this measure.

We urge a "No" vote by members of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Robert Edmiston  
Volunteer Lobbyist  
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado  
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

Why is the second amendment always on the chopping block, every time there is a horrific and tragic shooting by a CRIMINAL PSYCHOPATH. Us law abiding citizens are tired of our CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, the 2ND AMENDMENT, ALWAYS being thrown out the window like yesterday's dirty bath water. I am completely dumbfounded as to how this, along with all the other B.S. laws you are trying to pass, and laws that have already passed, will do anything to change the behavior of the CRIMINAL PSYCHOPATHS! They already do not abide by the law; this is obvious as to the acts they commit. Why should I have consequences for the MENTALLY ILL. The mental health crisis in our state and nation MUST be addressed first and foremost. This is how violence of all kinds can be solved. Attack the underlying problem, MENTAL HEALTH. Banning firearms is not the solution nor will it solve the problem. I am, have been, and always will be a RESPONSIBLE LAW ABIDING gun owner. As a Marine Corps Veteran, former Law Enforcement Officer, I swore to defend the constitution, which includes the 2ND AMENDMENT. You took an oath to do more or less the same, minus signing a blank check for your life, and most of our ELECTED OFFICIALS, who are supposed to have the interests of those you serve, myself and many others, in mind, refuse to support the law abiding citizens of our state and continue to tear apart our CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, particularly the 2ND AMENDMENT. Shame on you! The only thing these absurd laws are going to do is to make LAW ABIDING citizens criminals, and prevent the LAW ABIDING from defending ourselves, families and loved ones. The criminals already do not abide by the law and will continue to break the law and obtain firearms illegally through the black market, theft and any means necessary to wreak havoc on our society. Look at the opioid crisis, opioids are illegal as is meth, cocaine etc. The criminals still obtain those drugs, even though there are laws that criminalize the possession, manufacturing and distribution.

This bill as it is written is absurd. If a firearm is left in a locked vehicle and someone breaks into the vehicle it will not make one bit of difference if the firearm is in a hard sided storage container. The CRIMINAL who already committed a crime by breaking into your LOCKED vehicle is already breaking the law. A firearm storage container will not make one bit of difference. The locked container will not prevent a CRIMINAL from BREAKING THE LAW to break into your vehicle to steal your firearm. Furthermore, as an avid hunter, if I decide to go hunting and need to stop for food, fuel, a restroom break etc. and I do not have the appropriate storage container now I am a criminal. These laws are not "COMMON SENSE" laws. All these laws do is drag the law-abiding citizens of our state down and make us criminals. We NEED TO START HOLDING THE CRIMINALS MORE ACCOUNTABLE!

I am asking you to please use some common sense and DO NOT strip our CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS away from those of us who are law abiding and have and will continue to defend our constitution and our way of life. Many great men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice defending the constitution. Let's not negate the efforts of the men and women who have, are and will continue to defend our constitution and the American way of life.

Sincerely,

A concerned Colorado and United States citizen, father and husband.

**HB 24-1348**

**Favorable**

**TO:** Chair Coleman, Vice Chair Sullivan, and Members of the Committee  
*Colorado Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee*

**FROM:** Timothy Carey, JD  
*Law and Policy Advisor, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions*

**DATE:** April 11, 2024

**RE:** HB 24-1348 Secure Firearm Storage in a Vehicle

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My name is Timothy Carey, and I am a Law and Policy Advisor at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Given the efficacy of safe and secure storage practices in preventing guns from being stolen, diverted into illegal markets, and used in gun crime, The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions supports the favorable passage of House Bill 24-1348: Secure Firearm Storage in Vehicle.

### **Colorado's Safe Storage in Vehicles Bill**

House Bill 1348 is a safe storage bill designed to prevent the theft of guns stored in cars. The bill requires different practices for storing handguns and other firearms. Handguns left in unattended vehicles must be stored in a locked hard-sided container that is either in a locked trunk or not in plain view. Firearms other than handguns also must be stored in a locked trunk or not in plain view, but may be stored in a locked hard-sided container or a soft-sided container with a locking device attached to the firearm itself. Knowingly violating this policy would result in a civil infraction punishable by a fine up to \$500. The civil penalty does not apply if the firearm owner reports their gun as lost or stolen if it is taken from their vehicle. There are exceptions for certain classes of people, like a peace officer acting within the scope of their duties, or circumstances, such as hunting with a valid license.<sup>i</sup> Glovebox compartments are not considered locked hard-sided containers for the purposes of this policy.

### **Gun Violence in Colorado**

According to CDC data, over 1,000 Coloradans died by gun violence in 2021.<sup>ii</sup> About 70% of these deaths were suicides. Guns were a significant source of intentional death in Colorado. Roughly 54% of all suicides and 75% of all homicides across the state in 2021 were by firearms. Like much of the nation, firearms are also the leading cause of death among children ages 1-19 in Colorado.<sup>iii</sup>

### **Guns Stolen from Cars Endanger Communities**

Most gun homicides and assaults in the US involve illegally acquired guns.<sup>iv</sup> A significant source of illegal guns is theft, the overwhelming majority of which are stolen from private persons.<sup>v</sup> According to national FBI data analysis, most reported stolen guns (52%) were taken from cars in 2020.<sup>vi</sup> The same report found that gun theft from cars had increased dramatically within the last 10 years, contributing to the overall increase in gun theft across the nation.<sup>vii</sup> This trend is exacerbated by the lack of safe storage by US gun owners generally. Survey data collected by Johns Hopkins researchers in 2016 found that less than half (46%) of Americans reported storing their guns safely.<sup>viii</sup>

Colorado follows national trends. Thousands of firearms are stolen from cars in Colorado every year.<sup>ix</sup> The Denver Police Department reported that at least 768 guns were stolen from cars in their city in 2022.<sup>x</sup> That is enough firearms to arm a large battalion of soldiers, likely in the hands of people who seek to harm themselves or others, from Denver alone.<sup>xi</sup> However, these thefts are not inevitable. Requiring secure storage of firearms in vehicles could help prevent gun theft from cars.

### **Safe Storage Laws Save Lives**

Safe storage laws, such as HB 24-1348, are based on a foundational aspect of injury prevention: separating the harm, in time and space, from what needs to be protected. We have seen the preventative effects of safe storage in action most clearly in youth.

Similar safe storage laws focused on preventing youth access to firearms in homes have shown great promise in reducing youth gun injuries and deaths. Such laws have been associated with a 26% decrease in nonfatal gun injuries for minors and lower rates of teen suicide by firearm.<sup>xii, xiii</sup> On the inverse, we have seen that homes where youth are dying by firearm suicide are far less likely to safely and securely store their guns.<sup>xiv</sup> Investigations of youth and adolescent school shooters by the U.S. Secret Service also found that over 75% of school shooters got their firearm from the home of a friend or family member, the majority of which were not secured properly.<sup>xv</sup> All too often, unsecured firearms result in preventable tragedies.

### **Conclusion**

Safe and secure gun storage practices prevent those who should not have guns, such as thieves, youth, and those at an elevated risk of harming themselves or others, from accessing guns. The Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions urges you to protect the life and property of Coloradans by voting in favor of HB 24-1348.

Sincere Regards

Timothy Carey

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<sup>i</sup> The full list of exceptions includes (1) storing a firearm other than a handgun in a vehicle used for farm or ranch operations on that person's private property, (2) a person living in a vehicle or recreational vehicle (because they are beholden to standard safe storage practices in C.R.S. § 18-12-114), (3) a peace officer acting within the scope of their duties, (4) a person holding a valid resident or out-of-state hunting license while engaged in lawful hunting activities, (5) a person instructing hunter education courses and outreach by the Division of Parks and Wildlife, and (6) an active member of the United States Armed Forces. Also, individuals with disabilities defined by federal law may store their firearm in a soft-sided container instead of a hard-sided container.

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- iii Ari Davis, Rose Kim, & Cassandra Crifasi, *U.S. Gun Violence in 2021: An Accounting of a Public Health Crisis*, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions (2023), <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2024-01/2023-june-cgvs-u-s-gun-violence-in-2021-v3.pdf>.
- iv Daniel C. Semenza et al., *Firearm Availability, Homicide, and the Context of Structural Disadvantage*, 27 *Homicide Studies* 208–228 (2021).
- v See Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, *National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA): Crime Guns - Volume Two*, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (Jan. 2023), <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-nfcta-crime-guns-volume-two>
- vi Megan J. O’Toole, Jay Szkola & Sarah Burd-Sharps, *Gun Thefts from Cars: The Largest Source of Stolen Guns*, Everytown Research & Policy (May 2022), <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-thefts-from-cars-the-largest-source-of-stolen-guns/>.
- vii *Id.*
- viii Cassandra K. Crifasi et al., *Storage Practices of US Gun Owners in 2016*, 108 *American Journal of Public Health* 532–537 (2018).
- ix Colorado Attorney General, *Storing Firearms Safely Saves Lives*, Colorado Attorney General (Feb. 2021), <https://coag.gov/firearmsafety/>
- x Shaul Turner, *768 Guns Stolen from Cars Last Year as Theft Rate Rises*, FOX31 Denver (May 2023), <https://kdvr.com/news/local/768-guns-stolen-from-cars-last-year-as-theft-rate-rises/>
- xi See U.S. Department of Defense, *Military Units: Army*, U.S. Department of Defense, <https://www.defense.gov/Multimedia/Experience/Military-Units/army/#army>, noting that U.S. Army battalions are typically made up of a few hundred to 1,000 soldiers.
- xii Jeffrey DeSimone, Sara Markowitz & Jing Xu, *Child Access Prevention Laws and Nonfatal Gun Injuries*, 80 *Southern Economic Journal* 5–25 (2013).
- xiii Daniel Webster et al., *Association Between Youth-Focused Firearm Laws and Youth Suicides*, 292 *JAMA* 1178 (2004).
- xiv Renee M. Johnson et al., *Who Are the Owners of Firearms Used in Adolescent Suicides?*, 40 *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 609–611 (2010).
- xv United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, *Protecting America’s Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence*, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2019), [https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting\\_Americas\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf).