

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

04/11/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1174 Concealed Carry Permits & Training

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Anthony Daiss Against themselves	Is our current conceal carry system and curriculum broken? There is already an education requirement and is overseen by your residing county. Are conceal carry citizens a problem in our state and is funding and resources required to fix a problem that does not really exist? Please place your attention on criminals who illegally possess firearms and use them to commit crimes, that should be your focus to make our state safer, instead of attempts to hinder law-abiding citizens to legally carry to protect themselves, their families and community. Thank you.
Joseph Pero Against themselves	I urge you to OPPOSE HB24-1174! This legislation will only hinder law-abiding citizens' Second Amendment Rights and their ability to defend themselves and their families by burdening them with time-consuming training and cost-prohibitive classes. Colorado already has safety classes and training in place, and there is no need to expand it further. Please vote "NO" on HB24-1174.
Robert Glenn Against Weld County GOP	I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB24-1174, which seeks to increase the burden of obtaining a concealed carry permit in our state. Specifically, I am concerned about the provision in the bill that would require instructors to be certified by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The current concealed carry requirements in Colorado are already very stringent, and this proposed legislation would only exacerbate the challenges law-abiding citizens face in exercising their Second Amendment rights. Requiring instructors to obtain certification from the CBI adds unnecessary complexity and cost to the process, potentially reducing access to defensive firearms for individuals from marginalized communities, particularly those of color and low-income individuals.

	<p>It's crucial to recognize that imposing additional costs and bureaucratic hurdles disproportionately impacts already disadvantaged communities. Access to firearms for self-defense is a matter of personal safety and should not be contingent upon one's socioeconomic status or background.</p> <p>Furthermore, mandating CBI certification for instructors could limit the pool of qualified individuals who can provide necessary training to law-abiding citizens seeking to responsibly exercise their right to self-defense. This restriction could ultimately undermine public safety by impeding access to proper firearm education and training, not to mention the reduced pool of instructors will lengthen the time to obtain such a permit, possibly even causing the death of individuals in imminent threat (think... those with restraining orders against potential attackers).</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider this aspect of the bill and oppose any measures that would make it more difficult or costly for law-abiding citizens to obtain concealed carry permits. Instead, I encourage you to support policies that promote responsible firearm ownership while ensuring equal access to self-defense tools for all Coloradans.</p> <p>I hope you will stand against HB24-1173 and work towards preserving the rights of all individuals to protect themselves and their loved ones.</p>
<p>Sheila Wheeler For themselves</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Sheila and I am representing myself to strongly ask the committee to vote yes for HB24-1174. Training and education standards are achievable and reasonable minimums, appropriate for deadly tools. Please vote yes to create meaningful and significant training before carrying guns into public. Thank you.</p>
<p>Drew Warby Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is unjust to those who follow the rules. You are making it harder for law abiding citizens to obtain ccw or renew. It's our second amendment and we should not need to pay money or obtain a license to carry a handgun.</p>

<p>Fiona Macdonald For Students Demand Action</p>	<p>My name is Fiona Macdonald, I'm a Junior at East High School and I'm representing Students Demand Action. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to vote yes on this bill. I am here again to ask you to enact common sense gun control laws. As someone who has had to grow up feeling unsafe in schools and in my community because of gun violence, this bill is a step in the right direction towards ensuring my safety and the safety of others. According to research, homicide rates are higher when concealed carry permits are more accessible. Concealed carry permits being easier to obtain is significantly associated with 6.5% higher total homicide rates, 8.6% higher firearm homicide rates, and 10.6% higher handgun homicide rates. Having a concealed carry permit is something that should come with responsibility. Let's look at driving in comparison. In order to get my drivers permit, I needed to take a 30 hour course and pass a written exam. In order to get my drivers license, I had to have my permit for a year, log 50 hours of driving time with my parents, and pass a practical test. In comparison, this bill only requires that people who are looking to get a concealed carry permit to take 8 hours of instruction and pass a written and practical test. Permits and training are popular with the general public. According to surveys, 88% of Americans think that you should have to get a permit in order to carry a concealed gun in public. Over 80% of Americans believe that high safety standards are critical when issuing concealed carry permits. Additionally, the fact that this bill requires in person training is essential. A person should not be granted a concealed carry permit after watching an online course, much like how a person should not be given a driver's license after watching youtube videos on how to drive. This training can also help save lives. An experiment conducted about a person's ability to respond to a self-defense situation involving guns found that participants with lower levels of firearm training and experience performed worse in these situations. In this simulation, those with less firearm training often accidentally shot innocent bystanders or unarmed people. This bill provides the necessary training that can be the difference between life and death. This piece of legislation is a necessary step in the right direction towards ensuring safety in our community, which is why I urge you to vote yes on this bill. Thank you for your time.</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</p>

	<p>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>Briston Brown Against themselves</p>	<p>This is a ridiculous and a farce of a bill. It does nothing to curb criminals or crime and intends to further infringe on and punish law abiding gun owners trying to get their concealed carry permits. This places more of a burden on Colorado citizens to jump and dance for their permit and for what? Does this solve Colorado's crimes? No. Does this stop criminals in the street? No. This is to place a higher barrier to being a responsible and law abiding gun owner. I say no to this bill!</p>
<p>Pamela Brown Against themselves</p>	<p>This is a horrible bill that makes it more difficult for gun owners to obtain a conceal permit. It won't do anything to impact crime in Colorado other than making another difficult and potentially costly obstacle for gun owners to hurdle over. This makes no sense and this bill must not pass.</p>
<p>Evie hUDAK For Colorado PTA</p>	<p>Colorado PTA supports House Bill 1174. Colorado PTA has a long history of strong advocacy on gun safety. Our association is committed to legislative efforts to protect children and youth from gun violence. We believe the Legislature must enact legislation that will help prevent future tragedies from occurring. We support efforts to restrict access to guns from persons who may endanger public safety.</p> <p>For most of our current members, their children have only ever lived in the shadow of mass shootings and widespread gun violence. There has never been a time when these parents could take it for granted that their children would be safe from gun violence. Practical gun safety and violence prevention legislation will protect not just our children, but also all Americans.</p> <p>In regard to HB 1174 specifically, Colorado PTA supports very firm restrictions on the issuance of permits for concealed handguns. We believe that permits should be issued only in cases of extreme urgency and need, to ensure that the general populace has very limited access. We support the requirement that recipients of permits pass an in-person firearms safety course and learn about the laws about safe storage and child safety.</p>

	<p>We must all work together to end gun violence. We urge you to pass this bill, for the protection of our children and families.</p>
<p>Beth DeHaven For themselves</p>	<p>I am testifying in support of HB24-1174. Currently a concealed carry permit can be obtained in a variety of ways depending on the training instructor. With no standardized method in place to meet the requirements, the law is open to interpretation, and permits are often issued without verifying that the permit holder has sufficient knowledge and experience to prevent misuse of a firearm in public spaces, whether intentional or unintentional. This bill will provide standardized training to ensure that those with a CC permit are those who will be better prepared to keep our communities safe from gun violence.</p>
<p>mike drabing Against themselves</p>	<p>Vote NO on this item please!</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. You NEVER hear in the news about a concealed carry person that used his permit to go and commit crimes. You DO hear about concealed carry people stopping a crime in progress or even saving people’s lives. So why would you want to make it harder to get a permit? Why would you not let certified NRA instructors teach?</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>Mark Kaiser Against themselves</p>	<p>Imagine a single mom from Aurora, in fear for her life because of a degenerate hoodlum who has threatened and stalked her for months. She owns a gun but doesn’t carry it because she has no permit and is afraid of getting arrested, leaving her young child abandoned. Increased fees, a mandatory 8-hour class, and drastically less access to instructors would make obtaining a permit that could save her life nearly impossible.</p> <p>— Dapper Detective (@Dapper_Det) February 11, 2024</p> <p>Essentially, gun control laws abridge the self-defense rights of law-abiding Americans while doing little to deter lawless thugs from terrorizing the public.</p>

	<p>Criminals always manage to get their hands on guns illegally.</p> <p>What’s especially chilling is that left-wing activists are rabidly trying to erode Americans’ constitutional right to self-defense after they disempowered the police and incentivized lawlessness with their soft-on-crime policies.</p> <p>Crime has become so rampant in Democrat-run cities that many people feel they have no choice but to defend themselves.</p> <p>Blocking legal gun ownership does nothing but embolden criminals.</p>
<p>Jennings Cheng Against themselves</p>	<p>I wanted to share my thoughts on Unconstitutional Carry laws. As someone who cares deeply about our community's safety and values our constitutional rights, I have some concerns about this legislation.</p> <p>Look, I understand the importance of protecting our rights, especially when it comes to the Second Amendment. But let's not overlook the fact that with rights come responsibilities. Unconstitutional Carry laws toss out important safety measures like permits and background checks, which are meant to keep guns away from the wrong hands.</p> <p>Think about it: without those checks, who's to say someone with a sketchy past or a history of violence won't be carrying a gun? It's a dangerous gamble that could put innocent lives at risk.</p> <p>And let's talk about the cost. Requiring training for concealed carry permits might sound good on paper, but what about those who can't afford it? Why should exercising our rights be a luxury only for those who can pay?</p> <p>I'm not saying we shouldn't protect our rights, but there has to be a better way. We need to find a balance between our freedoms and keeping our communities safe. That's why I'm asking lawmakers to take a step back and really think about the impact of Unconstitutional Carry laws.</p> <p>Let's work together to find a solution that respects our rights while ensuring the safety of everyone in our community. Our voices matter, and together, we can make a difference.</p>

<p>Adam Wiley Against themselves</p>	<p>Do not pass this bill. While I support gun owners getting as much training as possible, the nobody, much less the government, has the right to take away the public's ability to carry for any reason short of proving themselves incapable of safely doing so. This is unconstitutional, as it robs law abiding citizens of their right to self defense less they abide by your opinion of what constitutes acceptable training.</p>
<p>Steven Marquez Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against HB24-1174 because it makes a concealed carry permit less accessible to people with lower incomes. Classes with live-fire practice are expensive, often costing \$100 on the low end of the price range. This is in addition to the \$155 fee for obtaining a concealed carry permit alone. This bill would only dissuade people of lower incomes from legally obtaining their concealed carry permits.</p>
<p>Bryan Severson Against themselves</p>	<p>Greetings</p> <p>I , Bryan Severson, am testifying against this gun control bill. This is an infringement of our rights given to us from the constitution of being in the great nation of USA. Do not pass this bill, it will hurt not only people but their rights to protect themselves, their families and property.</p> <p>In my opinion, you lawmakers feel that your doing this as protecting us and other but honestly your being a bunch of nazi's. Yes I said it... I'm tired of your overreach of government and your day of reckoning will be coming. This is not a threat... it's a promise that you are incompetent of understanding the will of the people that you should not be do as I say and not as I do. These laws only affect the people who are only protecting their own.</p>
<p>Israel Herrera Against themselves</p>	<p>Having to get a permit to carry a weapon concealed in on itself is already unconstitutional. Putting even more restrictions on people to carry a weapon to protect themselves from criminals that already don't obey the law is ridiculous. If there are classes to teach people that dont train with weapons regularly is fine but we should not make it mandatory for that to carry a weapon to defend ourselves.</p> <p>We the citizens are our own first responders. "When every second counts, police are only minutes away." more than accurately portrays every citizens duty to carry a firearm to defend themselves and their fellow countryman from criminals/invaders/tyranny.</p>
<p>Ronald Hunt Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill only serves to make it more difficult for people, specifically those with lower income, to secure permits to carry defensive firearms. Individuals currently have to attend a class and have an</p>

	<p>incredibly extensive background check to get a concealed carry permit. This bill is unnecessary.</p>
<p>Pat Rottschaefer For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Pat Rottschaefer and my words are my own. I had 3 children, watched them grow and learn about the world and their place in it. They were all very different people, which was good. My older daughter Christie got married, had a son and they moved to Arkansas where they thought life would be easy to start over. Alas it was not so. After splitting with her husband, she found a boyfriend. One night they had a huge argument. He was so angry he pulled his gun out and killed her. Rage and a handgun are a powerful combination. I had 3 children and now, because of an angry young man with a gun I have 2.</p> <p>I tell you this to show I am personally concerned about the increased incidence of gun violence. HB24-1174 addresses what needs to be done to obtain a concealed carry permit and the training a person needs to obtain so they can get such permit. Currently, Colorado law does require training, but that training does not include live fire training. Currently a person does not need to even show they know how to shoot their weapon. I think this is nuts! The bill at hand requires not only book learning but also live fire training. This makes a lot of sense to me. Some might be concerned at the time length of the course. There are a bunch of other elements that a person needs to show competence in to obtain a concealed carry permit. I cannot imagine that a responsible gun owner would object to these conditions.</p> <p>Please vote yes on this bill to ensure that those carrying concealed firearms are well trained.</p>
<p>Timothy Dyer Against themselves</p>	<p>Please OPPOSE HB24-1174! This bill is unnecessary and if passed would be an inappropriate use of resources. The CBI should be using its personnel to investigate and stop crimes such as drug trafficking, human trafficking and other very serious crimes that affect everyone in Colorado. The added cost of overseeing firearms training is also a needless financial burden to the taxpayers of Colorado. There is no need for more government oversight. Thank you for listening!</p>
<p>Roger Cook Against</p>	<p>I oppose excessive training required for a god given right to defend yourself. There's already training requirements, we don't need more requirements for no reason. This bill has no purpose, except more red</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>tape to keep law bidding citizens from defending themselves. . I oppose this bill!</p>
<p>jerry blake Against themselves</p>	<p>This proposed bill discriminates against lower income Coloradoans who can't afford the expensive extra training it mandates.</p> <p>Many of these people live in higher crime rate neighborhoods and are in most need of lawfully carrying defensive firearms. But this bill would effectively act as a "Poll Tax" to discourage people from exercising their 2A civil rights just as the original poll taxes were implemented by democrats to discourage black people from exercising their voting rights during Jim Crow.</p> <p>Further, there is absolutely no evidence that the hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people with permits in Colorado have been irresponsible in carrying concealed handguns.</p> <p>The only thing this bill will accomplish is force people to carry without a permit, providing law enforcement more charges during police stops and thus more jail time.</p> <p>Please vote no.</p>
<p>Maxwell Hayes Against Aim Small Firearm Training</p>	<p>As a certifeid instructor approved by the NRA, and el paso county sheriff I belive the government needs to stay out of the training requirements. Beurocrats know nothing about Firearm safety whoand how Firearm safety should be emplimented. The atf and many politicians have proven their lack of knowledge when speaking on Firearm safety from saying bullets cook animals, to atf agents inability to take down a glock pistol. Leave the the training and standards to those that are trained since we are the ones with the knowledge and skills to train</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 ask that you withdraw your support for HB24-1174 and vote to no.</p> <p>This bill ultimately punishes the larger majority of lawful concealed handgun permit holders and future gun owners. 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>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 themselves</p>	<p>Subject: OPPOSE HB24-1174!</p> <p>As a fellow resident of Colorado, I urge you to OPPOSE HB24-1174. This bill will only hinder law-abiding citizens Second Amendment Rights and their ability to defend themselves and their families by burdening them with time consuming training and cost prohibitive classes.</p> <p>This bill does nothing to prevent violence; instead, it will only serve to hinder the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families.</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST this bill. It is a complete constitutional overreach. In fact, I submit we should not have to get a permit to carry a self-defense weapon in the first place.</p> <p>Also, this bill requires current & future instructors to teach about the Red Flag Gun Confiscation law and to recommend using it. How onerous this requirement is! The Red Flag laws are a terrific way to get spouses/SOs to annoy their ex's.</p>

	<p>There are so many gun laws already in the books that this bill appears to be yet another roadblock to law abiding citizens' ability to defend themselves against the onslaught of crime occurring now. And it is getting worse!</p> <p>I STRONGLY urge you to vote AGAINST this onerous bill.</p> <p>Sincerely Unrepresented,</p> <p>Joseph Pero</p> <p>P.S.: I have a rhetorical question: do you all have a homework assignment that requires you to dream up all these anti-Second Amendment bills when you are not in session? Is there any requirement for bills that really help with fixing our roads and infrastructure, or God forbid, hire more police to curb the growing crime in our state?</p>
<p>Gary Travis Against themselves</p>	<p>Senators,</p> <p>As a Colorado voter I urge you to vote against HB24-1174. This bill places unnecessary burdens of time and cost on citizens renewing their conceal carry permits. We do not need training. We keep up on the current laws. And, this bill is likely unconstitutional under current US Supreme Court rulings.</p> <p>Gary Travis</p>
<p>Leif Sigstedt Against themselves</p>	<p>We already have a significantly long and expensive process to get a concealed carry permit in Colorado. Making it harder to get while other states are declaring that carrying a firearm is a constitutionally protected human right is ridiculous in my opinion. We are going backwards and this is all just about punishing law abiding gun owners because some of the people in power don't like us. This will directly impact the lower income people the most and their ability to protect themselves and their loved ones will diminish as a result. They tend to be the ones to live in more dangerous places and need to do just that the most often. This wont affect the rich or the people who live in affluent areas. This is another example of people who likely have privileged lives thinking that they know what's best for the rest of us when they really have no idea about the dangers that some of us face these on a daily basis. Please stop criminalizing and punishing law abiding gun owners, it's just not right. If you want to do something about crime then add increased punishments to violent crimes and for goodness sake keep the dangerous people in jail where they unfortunately belong. Vote no on HB24-1174.</p>
<p>Glenn Massarotti Against</p>	<p>I vehemently oppose this bill. There is simply no evidence that the existing requirements for concealed carry are inadequate. This is</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>nothing but a new infringement of our constitutional rights. Please vote no.</p>
<p>Sean Langlais Against themselves</p>	<p>I am opposed to HB24-1174, Concealed Carry Permits & Training. It will only make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to properly defend themselves. Please kill this bill.</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>With regards to HB-1174 ("Concealed Carry Permits & Training"), the proposed increase in requirements are unnecessary and an arbitrary extra burden on those who already submit to finger printing and firearm safety courses. Honest appraisal of current concealed carry permit holders show few are ever involved in unlawful use of the firearms. It should be noted that Colorado reciprocity is also acknowledged by a majority of other states, in essence agreeing that current Colorado concealed carry requirements are considered sufficient and safe in other locations across the nation.</p> <p>I am an unaffiliated voter for a reason. I have deep concerns with both major parties, but the Democratic party's assault on basic human rights, avowed in our Federal and state constitutions, are extremely troubling to me. This proposed legislation (like most other anti-gun law proposals) always attack and demonize the responsible, law-abiding people. They never truly address the underlying criminal and mentally ill reasons for gun violence and crime. I hope that the majority of committee members can step back from lockstep party line policies and acknowledge and reinforce the our inherent rights to self and community defense.</p>

<p>Joseph Perry Against themselves</p>	<p>I help teach a 16-hour concealed carry course which includes live fire. It is an expensive course. I am against this bill because people who need to carry concealed should be able to decide the level of training they want initially, and increase it later if need be. This bill acts to limit concealed carry to people who can afford more expensive classes, which I consider unfair and economically biased.</p>
--	---

KEITH EMERSON TESTIMONY ON COLORADO HOUSE BILL 24-1174 TITLED, “CONCERNING PERMITS TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR CONCEALED HANDGUN TRAINING CLASSES”

Keith Emerson, April 11, 2024

My name is Keith Emerson. I am a retired engineer living in Denver and am testifying on my own behalf against HB24-1174 dealing with concealed carry permits.

Is this bill needed? No! There’s a difference between “needs to know” and “nice to know”.

A concealed carry permit is not a certification that you know everything about firearms and laws regarding them, such as safe storage. According to the FBI most confrontations occur within 3 yards, so why the emphasis on accuracy and firing 50 rounds? I could go on and on. The only item listed under requirements that is truly needed is (3)(e), “instruction regarding state law pertaining to the use of deadly force for self-defense.” To put further burdens on the minimum knowledge required to pass this class risks running afoul of the Second Amendment’s Supreme Court recognized right to self-defense (unless open carry is allowed as an alternative).

Why are these changes needed at all? The conclusion of Vance Parker, JD, MBA is that, “Statistically, concealed carry holders are self-selected to represent one of the safest subgroups within American society” (<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/6128>). David Kopel has put the number as 39 times less likely to be arrested than an adult without one (permit). I would like to add that in my own experience this is very true, with permit holders taking their responsibilities very seriously.

Really? The number of permit holders in Denver is likely over 10,000. Listening to a Denver City Council meeting discussing firearms, Denver Police were asked how many permits had been revoked. The police response, and I may be off by one or two, was that 17 permits had been revoked in the last 5 years and that none of them, as far as they could recall, were for firearm-related violations. This is an indication that expanded training is not needed!

According to the US Concealed Carry Association there are 29 states that currently have “permitless concealed carry”. Unlike Colorado, no permit is even required in those states to carry a concealed firearm! (<https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/terminology/types-of-concealed-carry-licensurepermitting-policies/unrestricted/>)

My conclusion is that the world continues to turn, as it has since “shall issue” permits were required here in Colorado. The wheels haven’t come off even though current law dealing with concealed carry training and permitting isn’t as specific as, in some people’s opinion, it should be. Don’t risk violating the Second Amendment right of the people to defend themselves by placing onerous requirements on training. Please stop this bill now!



April 2024

TO: Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee

RE: HB24-1174 Concealed Carry Permits & Training

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. Strengthening the requirements for obtaining a concealed carry permit is an important step forward, and we believe HB 1174 will enhance the safety of both those who receive training before receiving their concealed carry permits and the community at large.

AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB 1174 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.

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 2020.¹ 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.² However, municipalities are not required to report data on guns stolen from vehicles, and often this type of

¹ 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>

² 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.³ 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 2022.⁴

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.⁵ 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

³ 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/>

⁴ 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/>

⁵ See footnote 11.

systems, firearm related assaults increased by 9.5% over a decade.^{6,7} 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

⁶ 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>

⁷ 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>

HB24-1174: Undermining Constitutional Carry

The passage of HB24-1174, better known as the "Unconstitutional Carry Act," strikes at the heart of our constitutional rights to bear arms. Contrary to the principles enshrined in the United States Constitution, this bill empowers the state to dictate who can and cannot exercise their right to concealed carry firearms, effectively trampling on the liberties of law-abiding citizens.

The Second Amendment unequivocally guarantees the right of the people to keep and bear arms. However, HB24-1174 introduces a troubling precedent by granting the Colorado Background Investigation (CBI) authority to oversee and permit authorized instructors for concealed carry training. This grants the state unchecked power to determine who can provide training, effectively creating a monopoly on concealed carry permits.

Under the guise of regulating concealed carry, HB24-1174 serves as a thinly veiled attempt to restrict and control firearm ownership. By limiting access to authorized instructors, the bill effectively denies law-abiding citizens their constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense.

Furthermore, HB24-1174 directly contravenes the recent landmark decision of the Supreme Court in *NYSRPA v. Bruen*. The court established a new standard for Second Amendment jurisprudence, emphasizing "text, history, and tradition." This decision invalidated any gun laws that fail to meet this rigorous standard, ensuring that our constitutional rights are upheld and protected.

Yet, HB24-1174 blatantly disregards the Supreme Court's decision, imposing arbitrary restrictions on concealed carry without regard for the fundamental principles outlined in *NYSRPA v. Bruen*. In doing so, it not only undermines the authority of the highest court in the land but also tramples on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

The mentality behind HB24-1174 reflects a dangerous disregard for the rule of law and the sanctity of constitutional rights. It is reminiscent of the flagrant disregard exhibited by the State of Hawaii, which recently dismissed the Supreme Court's decision as incongruent with the so-called "spirit of aloha." Such flippant dismissals of judicial rulings undermine the very foundations of our legal system and threaten the fabric of our democracy.

In conclusion, HB24-1174 represents a grave threat to our constitutional rights and the rule of law. By empowering the state to arbitrarily restrict concealed carry permits, it violates the principles enshrined in the United States Constitution and undermines the authority of the Supreme Court. As responsible citizens, it is imperative that we stand against such brazen assaults on our liberties and demand respect for our fundamental rights. The stakes are too high to allow the erosion of our constitutional freedoms to go unchecked.

Very Respectfully,

Allen William Noelte

Testimony in opposition to: HB24-1174

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. Any expenditure for the purpose of expanding the requirements to obtain a concealed carry permit in Colorado is beyond adequate.

We are not aware of any problems with the current system. It does not seem prudent to add unnecessary complexity to a program that is not broken.

Twenty-nine states have eliminated mandatory concealed carry permits entirely and allowed their citizens to freely exercise their Constitutionally-recognized right to armed self-defense. Even considering the original committee amendment that eliminates the provision for the development of a state-wide test by contractors, this measure still costs the State of Colorado too much money. These funds would be better spent on midnight basketball programs.

In addition, the 50-round range requirement adds to an already burdensome system that creates barriers to legal concealed carry by the most economically-disadvantaged of our citizens. This bill will have a disparate impact on the ability of traditionally underserved populations to engage in the exercise of a natural right guaranteed by the US Constitution.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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

April 6, 2024

Opposing HB24-1174: Protecting Second Amendment Rights and Equal Access to Self-Defense

In the ongoing discourse surrounding firearm regulations, proposed legislation like HB24-1174 in Colorado demands critical evaluation. This bill seeks to augment the requirements for obtaining a concealed carry permit, ostensibly in the name of public safety. However, a deeper inspection reveals that its provisions could ultimately undermine both Second Amendment rights and equitable access to self-defense tools, especially for marginalized communities.

A particular concern within HB24-1174 is the stipulation that instructors offering concealed carry permit courses must obtain certification from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). While the intent may seem benign—to ensure standardized training—it introduces unnecessary complexity and cost into the process. This mandate could lead to increased financial burdens for instructors, costs that could trickle down to those seeking training, particularly impacting individuals from marginalized backgrounds, including people of color and those with lower incomes.

Access to firearms for self-defense should be a fundamental right, unobstructed by socioeconomic status or background. By imposing additional costs and bureaucratic hurdles, HB24-1174 would disproportionately affect already disadvantaged communities. The requirement of CBI certification might shrink the pool of qualified instructors, thereby limiting opportunities for individuals to receive vital firearm education.

Moreover, this limitation could potentially lengthen the time it takes for individuals to obtain concealed carry permits, an issue that is not merely administrative but a matter of life and death in situations where imminent threats are present. Every moment counts in emergencies where self-defense is necessary.

Policies around firearms should be crafted to promote responsible ownership and education without impeding access for law-abiding citizens. By restricting who can offer essential firearm training, HB24-1174 risks diminishing public safety by hindering the dissemination of crucial knowledge and skills.

In conclusion, Colorado needs legislation that upholds both safety and accessibility. Rather than increasing obstacles for law-abiding citizens, we should strive for inclusive

policies that foster responsible firearm education and equitable access to self-defense tools for all Coloradans. The Second Amendment should not be a privilege exclusive to a select few; it is a right that must be safeguarded for the benefit of all individuals, regardless of their background or means.

Kind regards,

C.J. Glenn