

House Education

02/28/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1123 Funding for Sch Safety Firearm Detection Systems

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Cathy Gardino For themselves	Our most precious resource is our children. Denver has been soft on crime since Polis. Mental illness is on the rise in our state. Our children need better protection from those that are tempted to do permanent harm to our children. We need these security devices in every single public school in this state. It is the very least we should be doing and in truth, we should be doing so much more. I urge a yes vote on this measure. Thank you, Cathy Gardino Falcon, Colorado
suzanne mulligan For themselves	Subject: Public Comment in Support of House Bill 24-1123 - A Mother's Plea for Advanced School Safety Measures SUZANNE MULLIGAN 18894 E IDA AVE AURORA CO 80015 HAMILTONGWTW@GMAILCOM 303-766-4201 2/27/24 MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, I want to talk to you today as a mother deeply invested in the safety of our children, having raised three kids in the Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) and 1 nephew in the Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) currently residing across from one of our local schools. The safety and security of our schools have never been more critical, and I want to express my earnest support for House Bill 24-1123, the School Safety Firearm Detection Funding Program.

	<p>As a mother and an aunt, my top priority has always been ensuring that my children and, by extension, all children in our community have a safe and nurturing environment to learn and grow. House Bill 24-1123 resonates with me because it takes a proactive approach to address the pressing issue of school safety by establishing a program to fund advanced firearm detection software.</p> <p>The criteria outlined in the bill assure me that this technology meets the highest standards. These are not just checkboxes but reflect a commitment to investing in solutions that prioritize the safety of our children, ensuring a swift and informed response, a crucial factor in emergencies.</p> <p>Living across from a school, I witness our students' lively, dynamic energy daily. It brings me immense joy, but it also raises concerns about their safety. House Bill 24-1123 assures that our schools are aware of the potential risks and actively taking steps to address them with the most advanced and reliable technology available.</p> <p>I urge the Education Committee to support House Bill 24-1123. As a mother who has seen the growth of three children in CCSD and lives across from a local school, I believe this bill is pivotal in securing our children's future by implementing advanced safety measures.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Suzanne L Mulligan</p>
<p>Laura Felix For themselves</p>	<p>Greetings, Representatives.</p> <p>As both a teacher and as a parent, I want my voice to unequivocally be counted in favor of HB24-1123. In Colorado, in particular, there have been far too numerous shootings in our schools. It is an epidemic and it is one that can be stopped with your vote today.</p>

	<p>Other schools, such as several schools in Orange County, FL, schools in Perry Township and some schools in Philadelphia are starting to implement these gun detection systems in their schools as they recognize that they are invisible and highly efficient (scan at a very high rate). Contrastingly, metal detectors are highly visible and they create choke points, where a potential active shooter could hurt or God forbid, kill many students and staff as there, they are sitting ducks.</p> <p>Please consider your own children and your own extended family in your heart when you vote. Would you not do anything to protect them? This should not be a party line vote as so many votes have been. I call on you to truly represent the safety and best interest of your constituents, including our youth. Schools have the right to make their decision when it comes to implementing this technology. Please afford them this right.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Laura Felix Aurora, 80015</p>
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Testimony in Support of HB24-1123

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.

I am writing in support of the measure under consideration. Firearm detection software can save lives in school shooting situations.

Historically, in most school shootings, the police have arrived too late to effectively intervene, because of purely logistical factors. They are not on the campus when the shooting occurs. In other events, law enforcement was on the scene, but failed to respond effectively to the situation. The Marjorie Stoneham Douglas and Uvalde Massacres serve as unfortunate examples of delayed on-site responses that resulted in increased loss of life.

[Armed guard resigns after it emerges he 'hid outside' during Florida school shooting \(yahoo.com\)](#)

[Law enforcement failures in Uvalde shooting went far beyond local police | The Texas Tribune.](#)

Firearm detection software provides last-ditch, early warning for schools threatened by shooters intent on creating mass casualty events. This warning would be especially beneficial for those schools fortunate enough to have multiple, on-site first responders, such as those trained by the Faculty and Administration Safety Training and Emergency Response (FASTER) Program. Even if a school has only one School Resource Officer (SRO), the detection software could provide life-saving information about the location of an uncased/unholstered firearm in hands of a would-be shooter in the facility.

[About Us – FASTER Saves Lives.](#)

In the worst-case scenario, where the school has neither FASTER trained employees, nor an SRO, the warning provided by the software could allow more time for lockdown procedures and give off-site law enforcement responders additional time to arrive, assess the situation, and hopefully take effective action.

It is also possible that knowledge of another layer of protection would have a deterrent effect on a potential shooter. This would be especially true if the software were used in conjunction with the FASTER Program, or even with an SRO.

We urge an “Aye” vote by members of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

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