

**House Judiciary**

**02/14/2024 01:30 PM**

**HB24-1162 Penalty for Theft of Firearms**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Isaac Chase For themselves	To the Committee,  I write in support of this bill to classify all firearm thefts as felony offenses, regardless of value.  Firearm theft is one of the leading causes of firearms ending up in the wrong hands and being used in crimes.  <a href="https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/suficspi16_sum.pdf">https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/suficspi16_sum.pdf</a>  Colorado news sources have documented theft rings whose primary targets are firearms.  <a href="https://www.denver7.com/news/local-news/atf-busts-sophisticated-denver-area-gun-store-burglary-ring-17-indicted-for-400-stolen-guns">https://www.denver7.com/news/local-news/atf-busts-sophisticated-denver-area-gun-store-burglary-ring-17-indicted-for-400-stolen-guns</a>  Increasing penalties for firearm theft is a reasonable way to discourage these crimes as well as hold the people responsible accountable for the harm they cause.  Thank you, Isaac Chase
Robert Edmiston	Testimony in support of: HB24-1162

<p>For The Firearms Coalition of Colorado</p>	<p>Thank you, Chair and Committee</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the measure under consideration.</p> <p>To a degree, we believe that an increased penalty creates a more effective deterrent to crime. We also believe that it is necessary to incarcerate career criminals for extended periods of time to protect society from their repeated offenses. While certainty of punishment is a factor beyond the scope of this measure, we support this bill as a step in the right direction, as it holds criminals more accountable for their behavior.</p> <p>We urge an "Aye" vote by members of the committee.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Robert Edmiston Volunteer Lobbyist The Firearms Coalition of Colorado PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454</p>
<p>Tom Raynes For CDAC</p>	<p>Please amend my prior written testimony to show support for the bill when a new amendment is drafted and offered to achive the original intent of L002. L002 had a citation error. The intent of both is the same - make theft of any firearm valued at under \$1000 a class 2 misdemeanor. CDAC supports this with such an amendment for the reasons submitted earlier.</p>
<p>Mark Kaiser For themselves</p>	<p>Anyone who steals a firearm has is planning a darker deed.</p> <p>I request that you pass this bill but with one modification. A Class 6 felony for stealing a firearm is not a severe enough penalty for the crime because the criminal surely is planning a more serious crime.</p>

	Please modify this bill to make stealing a firearm a minimum of a Class 3 felony to deter firearm theft. Criminals understand substantial penalties for offenses, a Class 6 penalty is just a minor inconvenience for a criminal.
Keith Emerson For themselves	HB24-1162 raises the penalty for theft of a firearm. I am glad to finally see a bill for such crimes that raises the penalty for those responsible rather than the many recent ones that appear to put the blame for such crimes on firearm owners.
Tom Raynes Amend Colorado District Attorneys Council	CDAC is supportive of HB 1162 under the assumption that L002 is being offered by the sponsor. This amendment makes only the slightest and most reasonable change to current theft provisions. It is a modest proposal that prevents the seemingly absurd result that a person who steals a firearm - if valued under \$300 - only commits a petty offense. L002 would merely provide that stealing a firearm - if the value is under \$1000 - is a class 2 misdemeanor. Of all the gun related legislation circulating in this building, no other bill more clearly targets the most dangerous category of offenders - those who STEAL guns. This conduct is far more dangerous and predictive of potential violent behavior than anything related to instacheck, buying certain types of weapons or the like. These offenders - criminals with guns - are far more likely to perpetrate further offenses, threaten victims and communities and inflict serious harm via the use of stolen guns than any group at the center of other gun legislation this session. CDAC supports this effort and notes that this conduct is actually worthy of even higher level charges and consequences as the probability of violence, death and mayhem is high.