

Testimony in opposition to: SB24-003, Colorado Bureau of Investigation Authority to investigate Firearms Crimes
House Judiciary 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.

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration. We believe this legislation is a redundant waste of taxpayer money. County sheriffs and police departments already have the responsibility to enforce state laws. They also have the ability to establish priorities according to their on-the-ground understanding of local needs. This bill usurps local enforcement prerogatives and creates an unnecessary, bloated state agency bureaucracy that is much less accountable to voters than their own elected officials.

There are other areas of state government, such as drug enforcement and road maintenance that desperately need the funds that would be wasted in the implementation of this measure. We don't need another layer of state bureaucracy.

Because of these problems, we are opposed to the bill. We urge a "No" vote by members of the committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Edmiston
Volunteer
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado
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House Judiciary

04/10/2024 01:30 PM

SB24-003 CBI Authority to Investigate Firearms Crimes

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Craig Bauer Against themselves	Hello. To be fast and frank. The second Amendment is not negotiable and disarmament is an act of treason and war against the American People as outlined in the second Amendment justifier of "necessary for the security of the free State". This is not negotiable and all precursor treasonous actions of legislation including federal are acts of treason by the conspiratorial individuals are acting outside their constitutional constraints. I recommend all persons who actively pursue this and other Unconstitutional legislation be prosecuted as traitors and/conspirators against constitutional united states people per title 18. United states code, subsection 241 labeled "Conspiracy Against Rights", and other Laws to punish traitors. Your bill is an attempt to name and track nationals to target them for violence and death unconstitutionally in your pursuit of communist dictatorial power. You are lawfully ordered to CEASE AND DESIST. You are in violation of your oath to the constitution and will be held individually responsible for your unlawful activities. You have ZERO authority to do this per the 14th Amendment to the USA constitution. CEASE AND DESIST.
Levi McAuliff Against themselves	Weaponizing the CBI against the general public is not in the interest of the people. We need more resources put elsewhere and police support. This would create a faux ATF that would be used to intimidate local businesses and individuals easier. The last thing we need as a state is another alphabet agency making things more difficult for law abiding citizens.
Joseph Pero Against themselves	Please vote AGAINST SB24-003. In Section 1, Paragraph C, it states: "Tips and information relating to firearms violations as they are received, specifically focusing on straw purchases and personally manufactured firearms, commonly known as ghost guns." Anything with "Tips" written in the text is rife with fraudulent reports that could be from estranged spouses, significant others, etc. This is

	<p>an extension of the existing red flag laws. Red Flag laws without due process are anti-American and anti-Second Amendment.</p> <p>Also, this gives too much power to CBI. I fear there will be too many abuses of this power to drive firearms businesses out of business and out of Colorado. This, as you well know, will infringe on our Second Amendment rights.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joseph Pero Lakewood</p>
<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>Please vote AGAINST SB24-003. In Section 1, Paragraph C, it states: "Tips and information relating to firearms violations as they are received, specifically focusing on straw purchases and personally manufactured firearms, commonly known as ghost guns."</p> <p>Anything with "Tips" written in the text is rife with fraudulent reports that could be from estranged spouses, significant others, angry ex-employees, etc. This is an infringement on businesses that already struggle due to a ridiculous amount of government red tape.</p> <p>Also, it gives too much power to CBI. I fear there will be too many abuses used to drive firearms businesses out of business and out of Colorado. This, as you well know, will infringe on our Second Amendment rights.</p> <p>Instead, why not give the millions of dollars for more police to help stop the intensifying crime in our cities & towns?</p> <p>I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST this bill.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joseph Pero Lakewood</p>

<p>Joseph Pero Against themselves</p>	<p>Please vote AGAINST SB24-003. In Section 1, Paragraph C, it states: "Tips and information relating to firearms violations as they are received, specifically focusing on straw purchases and personally manufactured firearms, commonly known as ghost guns."</p> <p>Anything with "Tips" written in the text is rife with fraudulent reports that could be from estranged spouses, significant others, angry ex-employees, etc. This is an infringement on businesses that already struggle due to a ridiculous amount of government red tape.</p> <p>Also, it gives too much power to CBI. I fear there will be too many abuses used to drive firearms businesses out of business and out of Colorado. This, as you well know, will infringe on our Second Amendment rights.</p> <p>Instead, why not give the millions of dollars for more police to help stop the intensifying crime in our cities & towns?</p> <p>I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST this bill.</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. I am a mom, commercial loan officer and community advocate. I work in a regulated environment, which impacts daily work, processes and outcomes. Enabling the CBI to conduct investigations to prevent crimes is a critical, reasonable and achievable oversight tool. Please vote yes. Thank you.</p>
<p>Fiona Macdonald For Students Demand Action</p>	<p>My name is Fiona Macdonald, and I'm a junior at East High School. I urge you to vote yes on this bill. This bill helps to prevent criminals from illegally purchasing guns. It would ensure that there are processes in place in order to investigate any illegal activity regarding attempted illegal purchases of guns. A highly effective way to prevent gun violence is to ensure that there are dedicated government agencies to address the complexities of illegal firearm activities like those who are attempting to illegally purchase a firearm. A report from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives states from 2017 to 2021, there were 1,023,538 firearms stolen from private citizens. That is 1,023,538 firearms that could be in the hands of felons, in the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and others, or even in the hands of people who are not old enough to legally purchase a gun. This bill will ensure that the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has the bandwidth to track some later illegal acquisitions of firearms after a person has attempted to illegally purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer. That same report from the ATF stated that in the same five years, the number of illegal machine gun conversion devices that law enforcement agencies recovered has increased by 570%. Illegal machine gun conversion devices are devices that convert semi-automatic handguns into fully automatic</p>

	<p>weapons like machine guns. Ensuring that the CBI can investigate activity around those who are attempting to illegally arm themselves, either with guns or with machine gun conversion devices, is essential to prevent anyone from converting their semi automatic weapon into a machine gun in a matter of seconds. This bill ensures that when a prohibited, and potentially dangerous, person tries to buy a gun or lies on a background check, there will be a follow up investigation to ensure this person does not then attempt to purchase a gun illegally. This specialized focus will allow the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to collaborate with other agencies and streamline communications for more effective responsiveness. Since launching a new, intricate program necessitates greater funding, the appropriation is required to increase the department of public safety's authority. Adequate funding ensures that the government can stay ahead of evolving criminal tactics.</p>
<p>Claire Lucas For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you to the committee members for letting me testify 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 there was a hostage situation at my daughter's school. As a parent, I lived through a nightmare all afternoon waiting to learn if my daughter was alive or dead. Before that afternoon was over the hostage taker shot one student in the head as she tried to escape. He killed her.</p> <p>One month prior to the shooting, the gunman had pleaded guilty to harassment after leaving a voice message to a local Harley-Davidson dealership that contained profanities and a threat to visit their headquarters with an assault rifle.</p> <p>This bill would have authorized the CBI to investigate illegal activity involving his firearms, possibly saving a human life.</p> <p>Passing this commonsense gun law will be a step forward in making our communities safer.</p> <p>Please vote in favor of SB24-003.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

<p>Keith Emerson</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is unnecessary as it duplicates funding of a number of other individual bills put forward this year. For instance, HB24-1353, Concerning Requirements to Engage in the Business of Dealing in Firearms..., includes audits of Federal Firearm Licensees. Then there's also SB24-066, HB24-1349, HB24-1292 and for some firearms dealers, HB24-1174.</p> <p>The bill also duplicates tasks that the Federal government already performs as well as the duties of local sheriffs and police. There are better ways to encourage such investigations than spending the money to hire 10 people in addition to those funded by other bills and sources.</p> <p>This bill expansion of the CBI is a waste of Colorado taxpayer money. Please vote it down here and now. Thank you.</p> <p>Keith Emerson</p>
<p>Beth DeHaven</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I am testifying in support of this bill. Colorado has done an excellent job of expanding background checks for firearm purchases, but there has not been enough emphasis on enforcement. Legislation is only effective if it is enforced. By authorizing and funding the CBI to coordinate with local law enforcement and D.A.s, our state will be able to better identify and prosecute those who break our firearms laws and thereby better protect our communities. I urge a yes vote on SB24-003.</p>
<p>Jane Dougherty</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you Chair and committee members. My Name is Jane Dougherty and I am representing myself. I am in support of Sb24-003. The CBI bill to investigate illegal activity involving firearms.</p> <p>My reason for supporting this bill and and in 2013 the background check bill and the magazine limit bill is personal. My sister Mary Sherlach was murdered at Sandy Hook while trying to protect her school.</p> <p>When I first heard what this bill was about, I was shocked that law enforcement has not been charging prohibited purchasers, also known as criminals, who fail a background check when trying to purchase a gun. Turns out that these "lie and try" offences are rarely prosecuted, and local law enforcement doesn't seem to know when a dangerous person tries to buy a gun. In 2023, a total of 5,358</p>

	<p>background checks were denied in Colorado, few of those were prosecuted.</p> <p>One of the tropes we hear a lot from gun extremist is “enforce the laws on the books” and “we don’t need any more gun laws”/ Turns out there isn’t an effective process on the books to go after dangerous people, who do go in to gun stores to try an purchase a gun. Another trope we hear a lot is criminals will just get a gun illegally” and that is true but let’s stop them after they fail a background check. And to reduce the number of illegal guns in our communities, gun owners need to be responsible and lock up their guns and ammunition.</p> <p>Colorado needs to close this loophole in the law and require law enforcement to be notified when a prohibited person fails a background check and prosecute them.</p> <p>When this bill becomes a “law on the books”, county sheriffs will need to do there jobs and enforce it. Their duty is to serve and protect our communities to keep guns out of dangerous hands.</p> <p>This bill will save lives. Vote yes on this bill.</p>
<p>MARK KAISER Against themselves</p>	<p>Sb24-003 is a duplication of taxation between the state of Colorado and the Federal Government.</p> <p>There is already a procedure in place that the FBI is required by law to report National Instant Criminal Background Checks (NICS) denied transactions to state, local or tribal law enforcement within 24 hours.</p> <p>Federal law requires federally licensed firearm dealers to initiate a background check on the the purchaser prior to delivering a firearm to a buyer. In Colorado, all firearm trans by licensed dealers are processed by the CBI, which enforces federal as well as state purchaser prohibitions. Colorado. Requires the CBI to transmit a request for a background check in connection with the prospective transfer of a firearm to the NICS system and authorizes the CBI to search other databases.</p> <p>There are adequate laws in place and procedures to investigate those who attempt to buy a firearm who cannot pass a background check. This bill seeks to only add another layer of bureaucracy to laws that are already in place but are not being utilized to enforce penalties for those who attempt to circumvent existing laws.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against</p>	<p>TO: SENATE JUDICIARY, SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, AND HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>RE: SB24-003 COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE FIREARMS CRIMES 4-10-24</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO SPRINGS CONCERNED CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE! NO NO NO</p> <p>"Shall Not Infringe" Here we are again with over reach, and what I see in this bill as a WITCH HUNT against all gun/weapons owners, sellers, etc. More money sent to govt. in this case, CBI, while we cannot even stop the trafficking of human beings, and the fact that Colorado is one of the worst in this regard! This bill targets parts, pieces, and much more than is actually relevant.</p> <p>As a citizen, I have backed the "BLUE" and do still.</p> <p>I also back investigation, and protection of the American people. What is wrong here in this bill is that it is isolating weapons, and all that surrounds it. This is one more in a long line of abuses, and usurpations of our 2nd Amendment rights, and further attempt to disarm America. What CBI should be focusing on is the real crimes happening daily which include: unlawful criminals entering this state, this nation, children being trafficked, mutilated in our schools, and by blame, this very body! Not to mention, the fentanyl coming into this nation, which is enough to kill all people in the nation. Why are we focusing on nitpicking more weapons rights, when we have laws in place for controlling how sales, and ownership is conducted? Just really do not understand this, well, actually I do!!!!!!!</p>
<p>Thomas Cardinelli</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>The CBI has been tasked with doing many things. All of which from my personal dealing with them have been a failure on many levels. This is not something that they will be able to handle in a reasonable or proper manner and is a waste of tax payers dollars. Not to mention its just another way in the door to start creeping in on our 2A rights by another avenue.</p>
<p>mike drabing</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Vote NO on this item please!</p>
<p>Adam Wiley</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Do not pass this bill.</p>

<p>Leif Sigstedt Against themselves</p>	<p>This Orwellian theme is getting very old. This is not going to help anyone or prevent anything bad from happening since it targets the wrong people. Aren't there enough new gun laws already tied up in court? Do we really have to keep wasting our time and money trying to punish the law abiding gun owners who choose to exercise their god given right to bear arms? Please stop criminalizing gun owners and trying to track them or find reasons to put them in jail. Vote no on HB24-000.</p>
<p>Maxwell Hayes Against themselves</p>	<p>The corrupt colorado government should have the cbi investigate the criminal aliens, and sex trafficking that's taking over Denver, instead of going after American citizens. But the colorad government is pure corruption with election interference, Supreme Court convicting individual of crimes with no trial, human trafficking, gang banging, drug distribution, the slave trade and the sex trade. Don't expect colorado politicians to do anything more then take bribes, attack Americans, attack the constitution, strip Americans of their rights and freedoms, and flood colorado with drugs so they can install even more corrupt law enforcement. Revolution is the only way to save America</p>
<p>Aidan Duncan Against themselves</p>	<p>When combined with HB24-1353 this bill will put gun dealers out of business. Under the Biden administration, a far higher number of FFL businesses have had their licenses revoked due to innocent mistakes that previously would not have been grounds for revocation. Similarly, the newly empowered CBI can be abused to search for reasons to revoke state firearms dealing licenses and put firearm dealers out of business which will hinder the ability of citizens to acquire firearms and exercise their second amendment rights.</p>
<p>Jeany Rush Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: SENATE JUDICIARY, SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, AND HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES RE: SB24-003 COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE FIREARMS CRIMES 4-10-24 FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO SPRINGS CONCERNED CONSTITUENT VOTE! NO NO NO "Shall Not Infringe" Here we are again with over reach, and what I see in this bill as a WITCH HUNT against all gun/weapons owners, sellers, etc. More money sent to govt. in this case, CBI, while we cannot even stop the trafficking of human beings, and the fact that Colorado is one of the worst in this regard! This bill targets parts, pieces, and much more than is actually relevant.</p>

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April 2024

TO: House Judiciary Committee

RE: SB003-- CBI Authority to Investigate Firearms Crimes

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, and women are especially vulnerable to violence involving firearms. Gun safety is a complex issue that we need to deal with on many different fronts. One of those fronts is at the point of purchase. More than 7,000 would-be firearms buyers are rejected through background checks each year in Colorado, with an unknown number representing serious attempts by convicted felons to purchase firearms, or those involved in other unlawful activity, such as straw purchases. However, due to lack of personnel and resources, only a handful of cases are ever investigated. Senate Bill 003 can be an important piece in solving the gun safety puzzle.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports SB003 and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming 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.