

Testimony in Support of Magnus' Law – Senate Bill 132

My name is Christina Black, and I am writing today in support of Magnus' Law.

In 2005, my sister was killed in a motor vehicle crash after our car was rear-ended at high speed. We had stopped because the car in front of us was making a left turn. The driver who hit us later claimed she was distracted and simply did not see that traffic had stopped.

What has stayed with my family for the past twenty years is not only the loss of my sister, but the way the crash investigation was handled afterward. The driver who caused the crash was never tested for drugs or alcohol. The only person who was tested for impairment was my sister — the one who had been killed, while sitting in the back seat, wearing her seat belt. There was no possible way she could have contributed to the crash.

For my family, this was devastating. In the midst of overwhelming grief, we were forced to watch as the person responsible faced no immediate accountability, while the victim — our loved one— was the one treated with suspicion. It added another layer of pain to an already unimaginable loss.

Magnus' Law addresses a critical gap in how serious crashes are investigated. The bill would require law enforcement officers to offer a voluntary preliminary screening test for alcohol when a driver is involved in a collision that results in death or suspected serious injury. This simple step helps ensure that evidence of impairment is not lost and that investigations are consistent and thorough.

Families who lose loved ones in traffic crashes deserve to know that everything possible was done to determine the truth about what happened. When testing is not done at the scene, critical evidence can disappear forever, leaving families with unanswered questions and a sense that the system failed them.

This legislation cannot bring my sister back. But it can help ensure that other families are not left with the same unanswered questions and heartbreak. Magnus' Law is about fairness, accountability, and making sure every serious crash is investigated with the care and diligence it deserves.

I urge you to support Magnus' Law so that when lives are lost on our roads, the investigation is thorough, fair, and focused on the facts.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important legislation.

Testimony of Michele Saller Miller
Retired School Teach, Administrator and Principal
In Support of Colorado Senate Bill 26-104
Before the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee
March 9, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Michele Saller Miller, and I currently live in Northglenn, CO. I retired in 2025 as principal of Brantner Elementary School in Brighton, CO, after more than 30 years in education, including serving as a teacher, administrator, and principal at schools in Florida and Colorado. The following testimony is in support of Senate Bill 26-104, which would require schools to install key boxes that provide access to local law enforcement during emergencies.

In today's world, active shooters, hostile events, hoaxes, and other emergencies are a reality in today's schools, and certainly Colorado is no exception, as evidenced by numerous active shooter events in our state, not to mention the increase in "swatting" or hoax calls. While I was principal, I was often asked, "What keeps you up at night?" Violent acts, especially those with mass casualties, were top of mind for me and I'm sure most of my peers. Creating and maintaining a safe environment for our students, teachers, and staff should be of the utmost importance.

Schools have hardened themselves with locking doors, securing perimeters, installing vestibules, adding access control systems, and more. While these measures enhance day-to-day security, they also create new barriers for first responders who must gain entry during emergencies. Unfortunately, law enforcement access is often overlooked or assumed as a given by school administrators.

In active assailant situations, seconds matter. Time equals life. Having a law enforcement-accessible exterior key box ensures that any first-arriving officer – regardless of jurisdiction – can immediately access master external and internal keys, access cards, and up-to-date school maps to locate, isolate, and neutralize the threat.

Another advantage of quick response is the less trauma our students have to go through. The faster a situation is mitigated, the better. And if we can return the students to school with no property damage and constant reminders of the trauma they faced, then we can achieve normality faster.

While a key box for law enforcement may not stop a school shooting from happening, it could help put an end to the incident faster and get the care needed quicker. This is a common-sense, cost-effective solution that should be commonplace on schools across the country, and certainly here in Colorado.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Saller Miller