



April 2026

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee

**RE:** AAUW OPPOSES HB1212--Constitutional Carry of Handgun

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. Mass shootings have become commonplace, and our children now live with the expectation that they may be the next victims. Over the years, Colorado has taken positive steps in preventing gun violence, especially in our schools. Now comes a bill to allow high school students to have unrestricted handgun privileges and undo years of work toward making Colorado safer.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly opposes HB1212 and requests your NO vote in committee to keep this bill from advancing further.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Hon. Su Ryden

AAUW of Colorado Advocacy Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave. • Aurora, CO 80017

303.898.5797 • [suryden25@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



LCS GA &lt;lcs.ga@coleg.gov&gt;

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**HB26-1212**

1 message

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**Carol Davis** <caroldavis303@gmail.com>  
To: "lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 6:35 PM

HB26-1212

Hello,

My husband signed up to testify and after listening for 5 hours he wasn't called and left to work so here is my statement.

My husband was a law enforcement officer for 34 years. I have been exposed to firearms for many years. I strongly support the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms. At the same time, I believe responsible ownership is essential. Anyone carrying a firearm-whether concealed or openly-should have proper training and a clear understanding of safety including handling, loading and shooting. The laws of when and where you can & can't carry. When you actually CAN use deadly force as a CCW holder. Based on my own experience shooting with others I have encountered I have encountered individuals who lack the judgment, training, and situational awareness necessary to safely handle or carry a weapon. One example an individual had a CCW for years loaded their magazines backwards. Several people I know who have CCW's have never even shot their gun. This is an accident waiting to happen. Those experiences reinforce my belief that protecting this right must go hand in hand with ensuring individuals are prepared to exercise it responsibly.

How would you monitor if someone maintains the legal right to carry without the renewal process? You would be allowing to self police. I do not think there is a system in place that would alert the judge that someone has a concealed carry.

NO LIFETIME PERMITS.

A 2 year renewal class every 5 years is not alot to ask. Frankly, it really could be a bit longer for some.

Renewals give the opportunity to make sure individuals are still responsible enough to carry a deadly weapon!

Thank you,

Valerie Garcia

Gun Control Research-Wright and Rossi Department of Justice Study  
(Deterrent effect of armed citizens upon criminal behavior)

Professors James D. Wright and Peter Rossi of the Social and Demographic Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts conducted a study in 1982 and 1983 paid for by the U.S. Department of Justice. (Professor Rossi was a former President of the American Sociological Association.) The researchers interviewed 1,874 imprisoned felons in ten states.

Professors Wright and Rossi initially believed that strict gun control deterred crime. The results of their research led them to the conclusion that armed citizens have a beneficial effect in reducing criminal behavior and that harsh laws, such as handgun bans, could result in criminals using sawed off rifles and shotguns with more deadly results. 88% of the criminals surveyed by Wright and Rossi agreed with the statement that, "A criminal who wants a handgun is going to get one."

A 1986 review of the professors' work, *Armed and Considered Dangerous*, by Raymond G. Kessler of the Department of Criminal Justice of Memphis State University, concluded, "Although *Armed and Considered Dangerous* is not free of methodological problems, it is the best policy-oriented study of criminals and their guns available."

Wright and Rossi reported that:

81% of interviewees agreed that a "smart criminal" will try to determine if a potential victim is armed.

74% indicated that burglars avoided occupied dwellings, because of fear of being shot.

57% said that most criminals feared armed citizens more than the police.

40% of the felons said that they had been deterred from committing a particular crime, because they believed that the potential victim was armed.

57% of the felons who had used guns themselves said that they had encountered potential victims who were armed.

34% of the criminal respondents said that they had been scared off, shot at, wounded, or captured by an armed citizen.

Based on this government-funded research by Wright and Rossi, it would appear that armed citizens do have a deterrent effect on crime.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., Daly, Kathleen, *Under the Gun, Weapons, Crime, and Violence in America*, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, 1983.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., *The Armed Criminal in America*, U.S. Department of Justice, 1985.

Wright, James D., Rossi, Peter H., *Armed and Considered Dangerous, a Survey of Felons and their Firearms*, Aldine de Gruyter, New York, 1986.

Firearms Coalition of Colorado, PO Box 1454 Englewood, CO 80150-1454

Testimony in support of: HB26-1212, Constitutional Carry of Handgun

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:

I have two quotations from different centuries that I believe can be applied to restrictions on concealed carry. The first comes from Cesare Beccaria, an Italian criminologist, who was an early opponent of the death penalty. His 1764 treatise, *On Crimes and Punishments*, advocated reform of the Italian criminal justice system. Here is a summary of his thoughts on laws that prohibit the carrying of arms.

“False is the idea of utility that sacrifices a thousand real advantages for one imaginary or trifling inconvenience; that would take away fire because it burns, and water because one may drown in it. The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Can it be supposed that those who have the courage to violate the most sacred laws of humanity, will respect the less important and arbitrary ones, which can be violated with ease and impunity, and which, if strictly obeyed, would put an end to personal liberty -so dear to humanity, so dear to the enlightened legislator- and subject innocent persons to all the vexations that the guilty alone ought to suffer? Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve to encourage rather than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed person may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed person.”

The second quotation addresses gun-control laws in general.

Professor Donald Kates was co-author of “Would Banning Firearms Reduce Murder and Suicide? A review of International and Some Domestic Evidence” published in the spring of 2007 in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, the most widely distributed law review in the US. Professor Kates served at Stanford Law School. His co-author, Professor Gary Mauser, served at a Canadian university. The Kates-Mauser study looked at 18 European nations with varying levels of gun ownership. They concluded: “The people you need to control are not going to obey the gun control laws...and the people you don't need to control, are the ones who obey. So, what you get is...either nothing, or you get worse results with gun control...”

More from Kates and Mauser: “Whether gun availability is viewed as a cause or as a mere coincidence, the long-term macrocosmic evidence is that gun ownership spread widely throughout societies consistently correlates with stable or declining murder rates.

Whether causative or not, the consistent international pattern is that more guns equal less murder and other violent crime.”

We may hear testimony about The Violence Policy Center’s allegations of “Concealed Carry Killers.” The Violence Policy Center is notorious for miscounting data points, and expanding crime definitions to meaningless degrees, e.g., a BB gun shot at a school bus with no injuries becomes a “school shooting.” In a study, the VPC counted one case where a concealed carry **application** was found in a perpetrator’s dwelling.

Professor, Attorney, and Author, David Kopel has described VPC Research as “Junk Science,” before a committee of this Legislature. Violence Policy Center research seems to fit the following description: “I followed the science, but could not find it. Then I followed the money. It was there that I found the science.”

Law abiding citizens with concealed carry permits are not law-abiding just because they have concealed carry permits. They go to the trouble to get the permits, because they are law-abiding. They will be no less law-abiding, if there is no legal requirement to pay a fee to exercise an enumerated Constitutional right.

What about studies that show higher rates of homicide in areas with less strict gun laws? We would have to look at where the people who did the study got their money. I would rather rely on the Wright and Rossi Study, which found that armed citizens deter criminals, which was paid for by the US Government. Professors Wright and Rossi changed their opinions on gun control based on their research, rather than tailor the research to fit their pre-conceived ideas that gun control was effective. (See information on Wright and Rossi Study.)

According to the US Concealed Carry Association, 29 states have some form of Constitutional Carry. [What Is Constitutional Carry? | State Gun Laws | USCCA Blog](#). Let us add Colorado to this list.

We urge an “aye” vote on this bill. Thank you, Chair and Committee.

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

House Judiciary

04/07/2026

HB26-1212 Constitutional Carry of Handgun

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Aaron Mercer For themselves	I am hoping we catch up with the majority of the other states and everyone can agree this is good for Colorado and law abiding firearms owners. I am urging a yes vote. Thank you for your time.
Allen Garren For themselves	I fully support this bill HB26-1212
Bert Callicoatt For themselves	I urge members of this committee to support Constitutional Carry for the safety and protection of all Coloradans; our diverse citizenry needs weapons of self-defense to protect ourselves, families, loved ones.
Carolyn Shepherd Against themselves	Chair Mabrey and committee members,  I am opposed to HB26-1212. So-called constitutional carry or permit-less carry would remove all regulations on carrying firearms. This means no background checks, no training, no permitting process to keep the general public safe. States where lax constitutional carry has been implemented suffer increased assaults and increased officer involved shootings. This is the link to the Johns Hopkins study on the consequences of lax open and concealed carry laws: <a href="https://share.google/hyRKhQM9GmxeqaNX0">https://share.google/hyRKhQM9GmxeqaNX0</a> . The painful video loop of law enforcement finding a gun on Alex Pretti precipitating his murder show the incendiary nature of carrying a firearm.  I want and need my government to protect me from the gun violence that is epidemic in our divided and tense country. Please help keep all Coloradoans safe by voting no on HB26-1212.
Chris Cline	Self defense is not only constitutionally protected, but an intrinsic human right. By requiring law-abiding citizens to jump through hoops, it

For themselves	directly limits the ability to exercise that constitutional right. Please pass this legislation - criminals will still ignore it, but it will level the field for those of us who follow the law. Thank you.
Cole Harmonson For themselves	Law abiding citizens already have these rights via our precious Constitution, we implore you to pass this bill.
Daniel Warren For themselves	As we have seen time and time again, law-abiding citizens are not the one committing gun crimes. Criminals are going to arm themselves while gun laws inhibit our ways to defend themselves.
Dee Fleming For themselves	I support this bill. It directly protects our right to keep and bear arms without jumping through lots of bureaucratic hoops.
Diana Rouse Against themselves	Regarding this testimony I am representing myself. I am strongly urging you to vote NO on this bill. the current law helps keep Colorado citizens safe from gun violence and at the very least deters individuals with questionable historical violence issues. You will hear testimony against this bill citing studies and numbers which support limiting concealed carry laws and also from those who feel their rights are being infringed upon but for me this personal. I am honoring a longtime dear friend today who one month ago lost her life, WHILE HIKING , after being shot by a gunman because, as he admitted, wanted her car. This same gunman admitted to killing an elderly woman while she was in her living room watching television.! He came from a state that allows permit less carry. It makes sense that that these types of unregulated, weak conceal carry restrictions result in higher rates of gun homicide and violent confrontations. Keep the citizens of Colorado safer by voting NO on this bill to keep our current laws in in place.
Eddie Taylor For themselves	Good day;  I support HB26-1212 as granting our constitutional right to practice the Second Amendment unhindered by restrictions placed by our representatives who clearly don't honor the majority of US citizen's preferences. These God-given rights to protect life and property have been repeatedly supported by HELLER, McDONALD and BRUEN decisions handed down by the US Supreme Court.

	<p>To our Colorado legislators, please lend your support to our freedom to carry firearms. Thank you.</p> <p>E.G. Taylor, DVM</p>
<p>Fletcher Potes</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>The second amendment is very clear. "A well regulated militia, (civilians with military grade weapons who are well trained) necessary to the security of a free state, (needed to protect our states and rights) THE RIGHT of the PEOPLE to KEEP AND BEAR (own and carry firearms) SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED (SHALL NOT be encroached upon)</p> <p>Needing to pay the government to carry your gun you're CONSTITUTIONALLY ALLOWED TO DO is THEREFORE UNCONSTITUTIONAL IN AND OF ITSELF.</p> <p>Criminals don't follow the law as it is. You think making it harder for law abiding people to protect themselves is gonna save innocent lives lives? It doesn't. Gun control didn't even come close to stopping brutal violence in the UK, and it won't here in any state.</p>
<p>Forest Harper</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>As a permit holder I support this bill. I have been a resident of Colorado for over 50 years. Thank you , Forest Harper</p>
<p>Gary McCombs</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Please vote yes on bill HB26-1212!</p>
<p>Hania Baird</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Hania Baird. I am a proud naturalized United States citizen who immigrated from a communist country where the government controlled every aspect of life. In the nation I left behind, ordinary citizens were forbidden from owning firearms. Self-defense was not a right—it was a privilege reserved only for those in power, leaving the rest of us defenseless against crime, tyranny, and oppression.</p> <p>I still remember the constant fear of knowing that if danger came to my door, I had no real way to protect my family or myself. The regime disarmed the people under the banner of "public safety," yet violence and control only grew worse. That experience taught me a lasting truth: a disarmed population is a vulnerable one.</p> <p>When I arrived in America and later earned my citizenship, I was moved by the stark contrast. Our Founding Fathers recognized that the right to keep and bear arms is not a government-granted privilege, but a fundamental human right that pre-exists the Constitution. It serves as</p>

	<p>the ultimate guardian of all our other freedoms. The Second Amendment is not about hunting or recreation—it is about the individual’s ability to defend life, liberty, and property against any threat, whether criminal or governmental.</p> <p>This is why I strongly support constitutional carry. Law-abiding citizens should not need government permission to carry a handgun for self-defense. Turning a constitutional right into a permit process makes it a revocable privilege rather than a protected freedom. In a free society, responsible adults deserve to be trusted to protect themselves and their families without bureaucratic barriers.</p> <p>Having lived without these freedoms, I can say with deep conviction: the ability to legally carry a firearm brings a peace of mind that no government promise can match. It empowers the weak against the strong, the law-abiding against the lawless, and citizens against potential tyranny. Constitutional carry honors the trust our Founders placed in “We the People.”</p> <p>I am forever grateful to call America my home. I cherish every right in our Constitution—especially the Second Amendment. Having escaped a system that stripped its people of the means to defend themselves, I will always stand firmly in support of constitutional carry. It is more than policy; it is a declaration that in this country, we the people remain sovereign, armed, and free.</p>
<p>Hector Enriquez For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Hector Manuel Enriquez Torres II, and I am a resident of Colorado. I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 26-1212.</p> <p>I believe this bill represents a positive and necessary step forward for our state. It addresses important issues that impact individuals, families, and communities across Colorado, and it does so in a way that promotes fairness, safety, and long-term stability.</p> <p>HB26-1212 demonstrates a commitment to thoughtful, responsible policymaking. By taking action on this issue, you are helping ensure that Colorado continues to grow in a way that reflects our shared values—protecting residents, supporting communities, and creating a better future for everyone.</p> <p>This legislation has the potential to make a real, meaningful difference. It shows that Colorado is willing to lead, take challenges seriously, and implement solutions that benefit the public as a whole.</p>

	<p>I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 26-1212 and help move this important legislation forward. Your decision will have a lasting impact on the well-being of people across our state.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to Colorado.</p>
Jacob Perrotto For themselves	This bill is a major step forward for constitutional carry in Colorado and directly protects our right to keep and bear arms without jumping through bureaucratic hoops.
James Peel For themselves	<p>Twenty-nine out of fifty states now have constitutional carry. One more - which could be Colorado - would make it an even 3/5, or 60%, of the entire United States. It is time for Colorado to step up and do what nearly 60% of the United States has done ... trust their citizens.</p> <p>We are not the bad guys in this effort. The bad guys already have unlicensed concealed carry. They don't spend the time, money, and effort to get a CCW because they also likely have a criminal record which would preclude them from getting one.</p> <p>All we ask is for us to be able to do what the criminals do every day and not have to have a permit to carry a concealed firearm. After all, the legislature already treats the law abiding like criminals; so what difference will it make?</p>
jeffrey pflieger For themselves	a right is a right not a privilege
Johnny Flores For themselves	I, Johnny Flores, support HB26-1212 Constitutional Carry of Handgun. More and more laws are passed that allude to protecting the well-being of civilians, but only end up harming law-abiding citizens. This is one of the few bills that actually end up helping everyday folks, who simply want to exercise their 2nd amendment right. I hope everyone involved in the voting of this bill can see the benefit of this being passed. Have a good day.
Joseph Pero For	Please SUPPORT HB26-1212, concerning the authority to carry a handgun. This bill removes unnecessary barriers for law-abiding adults by allowing those who are legally permitted to possess a handgun to carry it concealed without first obtaining a permit. It recognizes that a

<p>themselves</p>	<p>fundamental right should not depend on navigating costly or time-consuming administrative processes.</p> <p>By lowering the eligibility age to 18, the bill aligns self-defense rights with other legal responsibilities already entrusted to adults, including voting and military service. It also ensures that individuals facing immediate safety concerns are not left unprotected while waiting for government approval.</p> <p>HB26-1212 promotes fairness and clarity by establishing consistent, statewide standards and eliminating a patchwork of local regulations that can confuse responsible citizens. At the same time, it preserves important safeguards by maintaining prohibitions on possession by those who are not legally eligible and penalties for misuse.</p> <p>Finally, reducing permitting requirements (associated fees, application costs, and additional training costs) will ease administrative burdens on local law enforcement while still allowing individuals to obtain permits for interstate reciprocity if they choose.</p> <p>I strongly and respectfully urge you to SUPPORT HB26-1212.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>Kyle Rademacher For themselves</p>	<p>This bill needs to be passed as it is written. I've been a law abiding citizen of Colorado all my life. Worked in public safety as a FD Officer and Paramedic for over 40 years. I shouldn't have to apply to protect my family or myself. That is a god given right and my business on how to accomplish that. Also why should I have to pay for that right? Once vetted I should be able to carry for life unless I commit a crime.</p>
<p>Leif Sigstedt For themselves</p>	<p>Please join me in supporting this common sense gun legislation that preserves what the constitution has enumerated as a preexisting human right. In the recent years this legislature has gone so far in the opposite direction of both our bill of rights, as well as over a hundred years of functional Colorado gun culture. These rights must be restored. The other attacks on them must be stopped. We can't let politics strip us and our future generations of our civil liberties, no matter what individual beliefs some people may have. None of these recently adopted laws have done anything besides make exercising our rights more difficult. Especially to those of us who don't have lots and lots of money. Since I live hours away from Denver and can't be there to come in and testify, the best I can do is to urge you all here to vote in support of this much needed bill.</p> <p>-A sixth generation Coloradan who knows that this current path we're on isn't what our state is about or what it wants.</p>

<p>Madeline Sarno</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Madeline Sarno. I live at 5691 S Youngfield St, Littleton 80127. I am firmly against this bill passing. Gun violence is the leading cause of death in children. This bill would allow for more guns to possibly get in the hands of someone who is suicidal or homicidal. Gun owners need to be responsible and carry permits for their weapons.</p>
<p>Malik Carrethers</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of HB26-1212 “Constitutional Carry of Handgun</p> <p>House Judiciary Committee “April 7, 2026</p> <p>Chair and members of the Committee,</p> <p>I am a resident of Colorado, and I strongly support HB26-1212. This bill restores the fundamental right of law-abiding adults to carry a handgun for self-defense without first needing government permission through a concealed handgun permit.</p> <p>The bill simply states that any person 18 years or older who is legally allowed to possess a handgun under federal and state law has the same authority to carry concealed as a current permit holder. It makes existing permits lifetime valid, repeals renewal requirements and temporary emergency permits, lowers the age for out-of-state permit recognition to 18, and eliminates local government authority to regulate concealed handgun carry“creating true statewide uniformity.</p> <p>This is not a radical change. Before 2013, Coloradans could lawfully carry without permits. The right to keep and bear arms is explicitly protected by the Second Amendment, which the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed applies to carrying handguns in public for self-defense (Heller, Bruen). Requiring a permit, fees, training mandates, or renewals turns a constitutional right into a revocable privilege“something the Founders rejected.</p> <p>Twenty-nine other states have already adopted constitutional carry. None have seen the crime waves predicted by opponents. Criminals do not obey permit laws; they prey on disarmed, law-abiding citizens. Removing barriers for responsible adults does not increase risk“it reduces bureaucracy and restores trust.</p> <p>HB26-1212 also saves the state hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in permit processing costs while respecting Article VI of the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law of the land.</p> <p>I urge the Committee to pass HB26-1212 without weakening amendments. Colorado citizens deserve the same freedom enjoyed in the majority of states and protected by our federal Constitution.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>

	Respectfully, Malik Carrethers. A concerned Citizen
Margaret Manfre Against themselves	Gun violence is the leading cause of death in children. This bill would allow more access to suicidal and homicidal individuals. A permit system provides a level of safe guarding.
Marisha Lamont-Manfre Against themselves	I am against letting anyone carry a firearm without a permit. We require permits to hunt, to drive, and for different jobs. Firearms absolutely need a permit to do so as well.
Martial Manfre Against themselves	Why would we loosen the law around the concealed carry permit process? I'm concerned that one of the bill's sponsor would financially benefit from reducing the age to carry, and relaxing the need for permits. This is blatantly an issue of an elected official using their position to benefit themselves rather than the citizens of Colorado. 1) This bill would limit the power of local government, as special districts, cities, universities would lose their authority of banning or restricting open or concealed carry guns. Does it apply to churches? 2) This bill would add more guns to the street. Most studies do not show a reduction in gun-related homicides by loosening laws. However, several studies show increases. 3) Even if this is for self-defense, rarely are concealed carry weapons used relative to gun crime. In a lot of cases, concealed carry is used in a threatening manner. 4) Why would we lower the age to 18 when 18-20 year olds are disproportionately involved in violent crimes with guns and victimization of guns? This creates a higher risk for crime, not lower. I am against this bill wholeheartedly. It makes no sense based on data. It only stands to benefit gun manufacturers, gun sellers - to which one of the bill's sponsor is one of them.
Matthew Koziolk For themselves	Dear Members of the Legislature,  I am writing to express my strong support for legislation that would establish constitutional carry for law-abiding citizens in Colorado and ensure statewide preemption that prevents local municipalities from enacting laws that infringe upon fundamental constitutional rights.  At its core, this issue is about the right to self-defense. The ability to protect oneself and one's family is a natural and constitutionally recognized right. Law-abiding citizens should not be burdened with excessive regulations that delay or deny their ability to exercise this right. Constitutional carry respects responsible citizens by allowing

	<p>them to carry a handgun without unnecessary government permission while still holding criminals accountable for unlawful behavior.</p> <p>It is also important to acknowledge a difficult but well-documented truth: many historical gun control laws in the United States were rooted in discriminatory intent. These laws were often used to disarm marginalized communities and deny them equal protection under the law. As lawmakers, I urge you to consider this history carefully and ensure that modern legislation does not continue patterns that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Additionally, the reality is that individuals are ultimately responsible for their own safety. Courts have consistently held that law enforcement does not have a specific legal duty to protect individuals from harm. While we deeply respect the role of law enforcement, this legal reality underscores why citizens must retain the ability to defend themselves when seconds matter and help may be minutes away.</p> <p>Statewide preemption is equally essential. A patchwork of inconsistent local laws creates confusion for lawful gun owners who are trying to follow the law. Fundamental constitutional rights should not change from one city to another. A uniform statewide standard protects both citizens and the integrity of the law.</p> <p>Finally, I respectfully ask that you consider the voices of everyday, law-abiding citizens when evaluating this issue. Public policy should reflect the rights and needs of the people you represent—not the influence of wealthy donors or advocacy organizations whose priorities may not align with those of your constituents.</p> <p>I urge you to support legislation that affirms the right to self-defense, respects constitutional freedoms, and ensures equal treatment under the law across all of Colorado.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Miguel David For themselves	<p>Constitutional carry should be legal for every law-abiding citizen because the right to protect oneself is fundamental and should not depend on permits or government approval. Individuals cannot rely on criminals to follow laws, and those intent on harm will ignore restrictions regardless. Allowing responsible citizens to carry firearms ensures they have the means to defend themselves and others in dangerous situations. Personal safety is a basic human right, and policies should reflect the reality that self-defense is often immediate and cannot wait for outside help.</p>
Miranda Manfre Against	<p>This bill is shameful, and I cannot believe that I have to take time out of my busy day as a medical student to provide testimony against this. Guns are dangerous for everyone. They are the leading cause of death in children (even exceeding car accidents). They give people the means to</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>complete suicide attempts. Access to a firearm in cases of domestic violence increases the likelihood of a woman dying by a factor of five. If a gun is involved in a domestic assault, a woman is 12 times more likely to die than if their partner does not have a firearm. This bill will make Colorado unsafe for everyone - children, women, and men alike. It is deplorable for Representative Flanell, who has a conflict of interest considering her ownership of Elite Firearms and Training, to bring this bill to the floor. I cannot argue against this enough. This bill is despicable and will only harm Coloradans.</p>
<p>Olin Jones For themselves</p>	<p>I am Olin Jones, resident, business owner of Larkspur Arms and taxpayer in Douglas County, Colorado.</p> <p>I am particularly disappointed that our politicians are wasting their time and our money creating duplicative controls, regulations and reporting requirements and abusing their political power, not to make our country better or safer, but to harass and drive away people and businesses who are simply exercising their constitutional and God-Given rights.</p> <p>For the most part, humans are naturally afraid of what they don't understand. I grew up on a ranch and learned about guns; my mom taught me how to respect them as tools as well as weapons. I don't fear the gun, I may fear the person behind it. A knife can be lethal; it can be used to save a life. Just like a car can be used to transport you away from danger, it can be used to run over you.</p> <p>Now here is how I see this current political arithmetic from Colorado's lawmakers:</p> <p>This proposed legislation is as ridiculous as having a Colorado driver's license and yet being required to get a county drivers license before driving on a county road. And before applying for the county license you need to get permission from the local Police Chief (to make sure he has enough officers to handle the additional traffic.) Prior to that, the local public works department wants you file verification of the weight of your vehicle so they can keep accurate records of proposed wear and tear on the county roads (for maintenance and repair costs and scheduling.) Most importantly the county assessor needs the number of trips you plan to take to establish a "balanced and fair" increased taxation to pay for it all.</p> <p>This year's frenzy of gun grabbing laws is what I call an "EXAGGERATION OF NECESSITY". Please just stop it!! Stop making your jobs about money, power and control. Let Colorado settle back into a place of freedom and choice. Where builders, individuals and pioneers are not controlled by radical outside mobs but can survive on their collective creativity and ingenuity that created this place.</p> <p>Vote for this Bill.</p>

	Thank you.
<p>Paul Stephenson</p> <p>For themselves</p>	Strongly support constitutional carry.
<p>Peter Bergh</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>There is no reason to force law-abiding citizens to jump through hoops in order to exercise a constitutional right. There is no evidence whatsoever that the current onerous process to obtain a concealed-carry permit increases safety for Coloradans.</p> <p>Thus, I'm strongly in favor of instituting constitutional carry in Colorado.</p>
<p>Richard Hus</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>This is constitutional carry—permitless carry for those legally allowed to possess firearms—and it is long overdue in Colorado. The strongest argument begins with the Constitution. The Second Amendment states that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” “Bear” historically meant to carry in public, and law-abiding citizens did so without licenses at the Founding. The Supreme Court’s 2022 Bruen decision made clear that governments cannot impose discretionary licensing schemes that treat this right as a privilege. Colorado’s current shall-issue system—requiring training, fees, fingerprints, and renewals—burdens a constitutional right. HB26-1212 removes the unnecessary bureaucracy while preserving all federal and state prohibitions on possession for felons, domestic violence offenders, and others. Critics claim it will increase crime, but data from the 29 states with constitutional carry disproves this. These states, spanning every region, show no statistically significant rise in violent crime, homicides, or firearm assaults tied to permitless carry. Rigorous studies find either no change or modest declines in serious violence, including reductions in rape and no increase in murder. Criminals already carry illegally regardless of the law. Constitutional carry simply ensures responsible citizens are not left defenseless by political bureaucracy. Colorado’s existing system creates real barriers: mandatory eight-hour training, fees, processing waits, and long drives for rural residents. These disproportionately harm low-income families (you know, the ones you are always claiming to champion for), the elderly, and working people who need quick access to self-defense. HB26-1212 eliminates these inequities without lowering safety standards—prohibited persons remain prohibited. Violent crime is driven far more by failed prosecutions, family breakdown, and cultural factors than by law-abiding adults carrying handguns. Colorado already maintains background checks and other safeguards. HB26-1212 simply aligns the state with the clear majority of</p>

	<p>other states and the original understanding of the Second Amendment. This reform respects the Constitution, strengthens self-defense, reduces costs, and treats adults as responsible citizens. The General Assembly should pass HB26-1212 without delay. Coloradans deserve the same rights already enjoyed in 29 other states.</p>
<p>Richard Underwood For themselves</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of HB26 1212 Constitutional Carry of a Handgun</p> <p>Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>My name is Richard Underwood, and I am a Colorado resident. I am writing in strong support of HB26 1212.</p> <p>At its core, this bill restores something that should never have required government approval in the first place, the right of law abiding citizens to defend themselves.</p> <p>Right now, responsible Coloradans are forced to ask permission, pay fees, submit paperwork, and wait for approval just to exercise a fundamental right. Criminals, by definition, do not follow these rules. So what we have is a system that burdens the people who already obey the law while doing nothing to stop those who do not.</p> <p>HB26 1212 fixes that imbalance.</p> <p>This bill makes it clear: if you are legally allowed to own a handgun, you should also be trusted to carry it for self defense without jumping through unnecessary bureaucratic hoops. That is not radical. That is common sense.</p> <p>Eliminating the 5 year renewal requirement is also long overdue. A person does not suddenly become less trustworthy every five years. If someone is legally prohibited from possessing a firearm, existing laws already address that. We do not need redundant systems that create cost and friction without improving safety.</p> <p>Updating reciprocity and removing inconsistent local restrictions brings much needed clarity and uniformity across the state. Law abiding</p>

	<p>citizens should not have to navigate a patchwork of rules just to stay compliant while traveling within Colorado.</p> <p>Let's be honest, this bill is not about expanding rights recklessly. It is about trusting responsible citizens and removing unnecessary barriers that never stopped crime in the first place.</p> <p>I support HB26 1212 because I believe in personal responsibility, constitutional rights, and practical policy that actually makes sense.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Respectfully, Richard Underwood Colorado Resident</p>
Robert Clodfelter For themselves	<p>HB26-1212 should be approved. 29 on the 50 states currently do not require a permit to carry a concealed firearm. Colorado should do the same. We need to get tough on crimes thru the judicial system not trying to control the population thru the legislative system. Firearms possession thru lawful possession is key deterrent against crime.</p>
ROBERT MCKITTRICK For themselves	<p>Even though I have my Kerry concealed permit, I feel it is of utmost importance to uphold the second amendment, right two bare arms and carry a weapon with you if you prefer without any hassle or discrepancy from any kind of law-enforcement</p>
Sandy Blaha Against themselves	<p>My name is Sandy Blaha, 122 W. Sterne Parkway, Littleton, Colorado 80120. Vote no on HB26-1212. I am a member of MOMS Demand Action. We are for common sense gun management. Guns are the leading cause of death in children in the United States. This bill has the capacity to intensify suicide which is 90% effective with guns as well as gun violence against children. Most school shooters are suicidal.</p>
Scott Hutton For themselves	<p>I am writing in support of House Bill 26-1212, concerning the authority to carry a handgun.</p> <p>This legislation recognizes that law-abiding adults who are legally permitted to possess a firearm should also be trusted to carry it for</p>

	<p>lawful self-defense without unnecessary administrative barriers. Under current law, individuals must obtain a permit to exercise this right, despite already meeting legal eligibility requirements. HB26-1212 appropriately aligns Colorado with the principle that constitutional rights should not be contingent on a permitting process.</p> <p>Importantly, the bill does not remove existing safeguards. Individuals carrying without a permit would still be subject to the same legal standards, restrictions, and responsibilities as current permit holders, ensuring accountability and public safety remain intact. ([Colorado General Assembly][1])</p> <p>For many Coloradans, especially those with limited time or financial resources, the permitting process can create an unintended barrier to lawful self-defense. This bill provides a more accessible pathway while maintaining the expectation of responsible firearm ownership.</p> <p>I respectfully urge your support for HB26-1212 as a balanced approach that upholds individual rights while preserving public safety standards.</p>
<p>Scott Mikels For themselves</p>	<p>Im 100% for the constitution carry</p>
<p>Scott Tabor For themselves</p>	<p>I am 61 and cannot protect myself if I am in danger. In this day and age and the amount of criminal activity that has taken place in our community, it's the only way to be safe.</p> <p>I wish this was not so, but it is.</p> <p>Scott Tabor</p>
<p>Troy Cichosz For themselves</p>	<p>The 2nd Amendment provides the foundational protection for the people in the exercise of all other amendments, and it is critical to the people's ability to defend them both individually and as a community. With the way CCW works currently in Colorado, I feel many people do not wish to pursue one due to the cost and renewal requirements. I also feel that open carry can also be interpreted as a sometimes undesirable advertisement. Following the 2nd's "shall not be infringed", and as it is unarguable in it's dictation, the right to conceal carry is already implied. I am wholeheartedly in favor of this bill as it celebrates our founding</p>

	fathers' belief that all law-abiding citizens are entitled to bare arms, be it in the open or concealed.
Tyler Camper For themselves	<p>Written Testimony in Support of HB26-1212</p> <p>To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>My name is Tyler Camper, and I am a resident of Colorado. I am writing today in strong support of HB26-1212, a bill that protects the rights of law-abiding citizens while reducing unnecessary government barriers to self-defense.</p> <p>This bill addresses an important issue: the ability of responsible individuals to exercise their right to carry a handgun without excessive regulation. Currently, many Coloradans must go through a permitting process that can be time-consuming, costly, and inconsistent depending on where they live. HB26-1212 ensures that individuals who are already legally allowed to possess a firearm are not further burdened by additional requirements simply to carry for personal protection.</p> <p>For many working people, especially those in rural areas or physically demanding jobs, self-defense is not theoretical—it is a real concern. Whether traveling long distances, working late hours, or being in isolated locations, the ability to carry a handgun can provide an added sense of safety and security. This bill recognizes that reality and trusts law-abiding citizens to act responsibly.</p> <p>Additionally, eliminating the need for repeated permit renewals reduces unnecessary bureaucracy while still maintaining all existing laws that prevent prohibited individuals from possessing firearms. HB26-1212 does not remove background checks or legal restrictions—it simply removes redundant steps for those already in compliance with the law.</p> <p>The provision that ensures consistency across jurisdictions is also important. Rights should not change from one city or county to another. This bill helps create a more uniform and fair system across the state, so that law-abiding citizens are treated equally regardless of where they live.</p>

	<p>In closing, I respectfully urge you to support HB26-1212. This legislation reinforces personal responsibility, streamlines outdated processes, and upholds the rights of Colorado residents.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tyler Camper</p>
<p>William Dollar For themselves</p>	<p>I fully support this bill, in it's entirety.</p>

## House Judiciary

04/07/2026 01:30 PM

### HB26-1212 Constitutional Carry of Handgun

#### Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
Sandy Blaha Against themselves	My name is Sandy Blaha, 122 W. Sterne Parkway, Littleton, Colorado 80120. Vote no on HB26-1212. I am a member of MOMS Demand Action. We are for common sense gun management. Guns are the leading cause of death in children in the United States. This bill has the capacity to intensify suicide which is 90% effective with guns as well as gun violence against children. Most school shooters are suicidal.
Marisha Lamont-Manfre Against themselves	I am against letting anyone carry a firearm without a permit. We require permits to hunt, to drive, and for different jobs. Firearms absolutely need a permit to do so as well.
Margaret Manfre Against themselves	Gun violence is the leading cause of death in children. This bill would allow more access to suicidal and homicidal individuals. A permit system provides a level of safe guarding.
Madeline Sarno Against themselves	My name is Madeline Sarno. I live at 5691 S Youngfield St, Littleton 80127. I am firmly against this bill passing. Gun violence is the leading cause of death in children. This bill would allow for more guns to possibly get in the hands of someone who is suicidal or homicidal. Gun owners need to be responsible and carry permits for their weapons.
Miranda Manfre Against themselves	This bill is shameful, and I cannot believe that I have to take time out of my busy day as a medical student to provide testimony against this. Guns are dangerous for everyone. They are the leading cause of death in children (even exceeding car accidents).

	<p>They give people the means to complete suicide attempts.</p> <p>Access to a firearm in cases of domestic violence increases the likelihood of a woman dying by a factor of five. If a gun is involved in a domestic assault, a woman is 12 times more likely to die than if their partner does not have a firearm. This bill will make Colorado unsafe for everyone - children, women, and men alike. It is deplorable for Representative Flanell, who has a conflict of interest considering her ownership of Elite Firearms and Training, to bring this bill to the floor. I cannot argue against this enough. This bill is despicable and will only harm Coloradans.</p>
<p>Martial Manfre</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Why would we loosen the law around the concealed carry permit process? I'm concerned that one of the bill's sponsor would financially benefit from reducing the age to carry, and relaxing the need for permits. This is blatantly an issue of an elected official using their position to benefit themselves rather than the citizens of Colorado. 1) This bill would limit the power of local government, as special districts, cities, universities would lose their authority of banning or restricting open or concealed carry guns. Does it apply to churches? 2) This bill would add more guns to the street. Most studies do not show a reduction in gun-related homicides by loosening laws. However, several studies show increases. 3) Even if this is for self-defense, rarely are concealed carry weapons used relative to gun crime. In a lot of cases, concealed carry is used in a threatening manner. 4) Why would we lower the age to 18 when 18-20 year olds are disproportionately involved in violent crimes with guns and victimization of guns? This creates a higher risk for crime, not lower. I am against this bill wholeheartedly. It makes no sense based on data. It only stands to benefit gun manufacturers, gun sellers - to which one of the bill's sponsor is one of them.</p>
<p>Carolyn Shepherd</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Chair Mabrey and committee members,</p> <p>I am opposed to HB26-1212. So-called constitutional carry or permit-less carry would remove all regulations on carrying firearms. This means no background checks, no training, no permitting process to keep the general public safe. States where lax constitutional carry has been implemented suffer increased assaults and increased officer involved shootings. This is the link to the Johns Hopkins study on the consequences of lax open and</p>

	<p>concealed carry laws:  <a href="https://share.google/hyRKhQM9GmxeqaNX0">https://share.google/hyRKhQM9GmxeqaNX0</a>. The painful video loop of law enforcement finding a gun on Alex Pretti precipitating his murder show the incendiary nature of carrying a firearm.</p> <p>I want and need my government to protect me from the gun violence that is epidemic in our divided and tense country. Please help keep all Coloradoans safe by voting no on HB26-1212.</p>
<p>Peter Bergh  For  themselves</p>	<p>There is no reason to force law-abiding citizens to jump through hoops in order to exercise a constitutional right. There is no evidence whatsoever that the current onerous process to obtain a concealed-carry permit increases safety for Coloradans.</p> <p>Thus, I'm strongly in favor of instituting constitutional carry in Colorado.</p>
<p>Forest Harper  For  themselves</p>	<p>As a permit holder I support this bill. I have been a resident of Colorado for over 50 years. Thank you , Forest Harper</p>
<p>Cole Harmonson  For  themselves</p>	<p>Law abiding citizens already have these rights via our precious Constitution, we implore you to pass this bill.</p>
<p>Scott Tabor  For  themselves</p>	<p>I am 61 and cannot protect myself if I am in danger. In this day and age and the amount of criminal activity that has taken place in our community, it's the only way to be safe.</p> <p>I wish this was not so, but it is.</p> <p>Scott Tabor</p>
<p>Daniel Warren  For  themselves</p>	<p>As we have seen time and time again, law-abiding citizens are not the one committing gun crimes. Criminals are going to arm themselves while gun laws inhibit our ways to defend themselves.</p>

<p>Joseph Pero</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Please SUPPORT HB26-1212, concerning the authority to carry a handgun. This bill removes unnecessary barriers for law-abiding adults by allowing those who are legally permitted to possess a handgun to carry it concealed without first obtaining a permit. It recognizes that a fundamental right should not depend on navigating costly or time-consuming administrative processes.</p> <p>By lowering the eligibility age to 18, the bill aligns self-defense rights with other legal responsibilities already entrusted to adults, including voting and military service. It also ensures that individuals facing immediate safety concerns are not left unprotected while waiting for government approval.</p> <p>HB26-1212 promotes fairness and clarity by establishing consistent, statewide standards and eliminating a patchwork of local regulations that can confuse responsible citizens. At the same time, it preserves important safeguards by maintaining prohibitions on possession by those who are not legally eligible and penalties for misuse.</p> <p>Finally, reducing permitting requirements (associated fees, application costs, and additional training costs) will ease administrative burdens on local law enforcement while still allowing individuals to obtain permits for interstate reciprocity if they choose.</p> <p>I strongly and respectfully urge you to SUPPORT HB26-1212.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p>ROBERT MCKITTRICK</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Even though I have my Kerry concealed permit, I feel it is of utmost importance to uphold the second amendment, right to bare arms and carry a weapon with you if you prefer without any hassle or discrepancy from any kind of law-enforcement</p>
<p>William Dollar</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I fully support this bill, in its entirety.</p>

<p>Johnny Flores</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I, Johnny Flores, support HB26-1212 Constitutional Carry of Handgun. More and more laws are passed that allude to protecting the well-being of civilians, but only end up harming law-abiding citizens. This is one of the few bills that actually end up helping everyday folks, who simply want to exercise their 2nd amendment right. I hope everyone involved in the voting of this bill can see the benefit of this being passed. Have a good day.</p>
<p>Richard Underwood</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of HB26 1212 Constitutional Carry of a Handgun</p> <p>Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>My name is Richard Underwood, and I am a Colorado resident. I am writing in strong support of HB26 1212.</p> <p>At its core, this bill restores something that should never have required government approval in the first place, the right of law abiding citizens to defend themselves.</p> <p>Right now, responsible Coloradans are forced to ask permission, pay fees, submit paperwork, and wait for approval just to exercise a fundamental right. Criminals, by definition, do not follow these rules. So what we have is a system that burdens the people who already obey the law while doing nothing to stop those who do not.</p> <p>HB26 1212 fixes that imbalance.</p> <p>This bill makes it clear: if you are legally allowed to own a handgun, you should also be trusted to carry it for self defense without jumping through unnecessary bureaucratic hoops. That is not radical. That is common sense.</p>

	<p>Eliminating the 5 year renewal requirement is also long overdue. A person does not suddenly become less trustworthy every five years. If someone is legally prohibited from possessing a firearm, existing laws already address that. We do not need redundant systems that create cost and friction without improving safety.</p> <p>Updating reciprocity and removing inconsistent local restrictions brings much needed clarity and uniformity across the state. Law abiding citizens should not have to navigate a patchwork of rules just to stay compliant while traveling within Colorado.</p> <p>Let’s be honest, this bill is not about expanding rights recklessly. It is about trusting responsible citizens and removing unnecessary barriers that never stopped crime in the first place.</p> <p>I support HB26 1212 because I believe in personal responsibility, constitutional rights, and practical policy that actually makes sense.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Respectfully,                  Richard Underwood                  Colorado Resident</p>
<p>Troy Cichosz                  For                  themself</p>	<p>The 2nd Amendment provides the foundational protection for the people in the exercise of all other amendments, and it is critical to the people's ability to defend them both individually and as a community. With the way CCW works currently in Colorado, I feel many people do not wish to pursue one due to the cost and renewal requirements. I also feel that open carry can also be interpreted as a sometimes undesirable advertisement. Following the 2nd's "shall not be infringed", and as it is unarguable in it's</p>

	<p>dictation, the right to conceal carry is already implied. I am wholeheartedly in favor of this bill as it celebrates our founding fathers' belief that all law-abiding citizens are entitled to bare arms, be it in the open or concealed.</p>
<p>Jacob Perrotto For themselves</p>	<p>This bill is a major step forward for constitutional carry in Colorado and directly protects our right to keep and bear arms without jumping through bureaucratic hoops.</p>
<p>Eddie Taylor For themselves</p>	<p>Good day;</p> <p>I support HB26-1212 as granting our constitutional right to practice the Second Amendment unhindered by restrictions placed by our representatives who clearly don't honor the majority of US citizen's preferences. These God-given rights to protect life and property have been repeatedly supported by HELLER, McDONALD and BRUEN decisions handed down by the US Supreme Court.</p> <p>To our Colorado legislators, please lend your support to our freedom to carry firearms. Thank you.</p> <p>E.G. Taylor, DVM</p>
<p>Allen Garren For themselves</p>	<p>I fully support this bill HB26-1212</p>
<p>Olin Jones For themselves</p>	<p>I am Olin Jones, resident, business owner of Larkspur Arms and taxpayer in Douglas County, Colorado.</p> <p>I am particularly disappointed that our politicians are wasting their time and our money creating duplicative controls, regulations and reporting requirements and abusing their political power, not to make our country better or safer, but to harass and drive away people and businesses who are simply exercising their constitutional and God-Given rights.</p> <p>For the most part, humans are naturally afraid of what they don't understand. I grew up on a ranch and learned about</p>

	<p>guns; my mom taught me how to respect them as tools as well as weapons. I don't fear the gun, I may fear the person behind it. A knife can be lethal; it can be used to save a life. Just like a car can be used to transport you away from danger, it can be used to run over you.</p> <p>Now here is how I see this current political arithmetic from Colorado's lawmakers:</p> <p>This proposed legislation is as ridiculous as having a Colorado driver's license and yet being required to get a county drivers license before driving on a county road. And before applying for the county license you need to get permission from the local Police Chief (to make sure he has enough officers to handle the additional traffic.) Prior to that, the local public works department wants you file verification of the weight of your vehicle so they can keep accurate records of proposed wear and tear on the county roads (for maintenance and repair costs and scheduling.) Most importantly the county assessor needs the number of trips you plan to take to establish a "balanced and fair" increased taxation to pay for it all.</p> <p>This year's frenzy of gun grabbing laws is what I call an "EXAGGERATION OF NECESSITY". Please just stop it!!</p> <p>Stop making your jobs about money, power and control. Let Colorado settle back into a place of freedom and choice. Where builders, individuals and pioneers are not controlled by radical outside mobs but can survive on their collective creativity and ingenuity that created this place.</p> <p>Vote for this Bill.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Aaron Mercer For themselves</p>	<p>I am hoping we catch up with the majority of the other states and everyone can agree this is good for Colorado and law abiding firearms owners. I am urging a yes vote. Thank you for your time.</p>

<p>Paul Stephenson</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Strongly support constitutional carry.</p>
<p>Gary McCombs</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Please vote yes on bill HB26-1212!</p>
<p>Leif Sigstedt</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Please join me in supporting this common sense gun legislation that preserves what the constitution has enumerated as a preexisting human right. In the recent years this legislature has gone so far in the opposite direction of both our bill of rights, as well as over a hundred years of functional Colorado gun culture. These rights must be restored. The other attacks on them must be stopped. We can't let politics strip us and our future generations of our civil liberties, no matter what individual beliefs some people may have. None of these recently adopted laws have done anything besides make exercising our rights more difficult. Especially to those of us who don't have lots and lots of money. Since I live hours away from Denver and can't be there to come in and testify, the best I can do is to urge you all here to vote in support of this much needed bill.</p> <p>-A sixth generation Coloradan who knows that this current path we're on isn't what our state is about or what it wants.</p>
<p>Scott Hutton</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing in support of House Bill 26-1212, concerning the authority to carry a handgun.</p> <p>This legislation recognizes that law-abiding adults who are legally permitted to possess a firearm should also be trusted to carry it for lawful self-defense without unnecessary administrative barriers. Under current law, individuals must obtain a permit to exercise this right, despite already meeting legal eligibility requirements. HB26-1212 appropriately aligns Colorado with the</p>

	<p>principle that constitutional rights should not be contingent on a permitting process.</p> <p>Importantly, the bill does not remove existing safeguards. Individuals carrying without a permit would still be subject to the same legal standards, restrictions, and responsibilities as current permit holders, ensuring accountability and public safety remain intact. ([Colorado General Assembly][1])</p> <p>For many Coloradans, especially those with limited time or financial resources, the permitting process can create an unintended barrier to lawful self-defense. This bill provides a more accessible pathway while maintaining the expectation of responsible firearm ownership.</p> <p>I respectfully urge your support for HB26-1212 as a balanced approach that upholds individual rights while preserving public safety standards.</p>
<p>James Peel For themselves</p>	<p>Twenty-nine out of fifty states now have constitutional carry. One more - which could be Colorado - would make it an even 3/5, or 60%, of the entire United States. It is time for Colorado to step up and do what nearly 60% of the United States has done ... trust their citizens.</p> <p>We are not the bad guys in this effort. The bad guys already have unlicensed concealed carry. They don't spend the time, money, and effort to get a CCW because they also likely have a criminal record which would preclude them from getting one.</p> <p>All we ask is for us to be able to do what the criminals do every day and not have to have a permit to carry a concealed firearm. After all, the legislature already treats the law abiding like criminals; so what difference will it make?</p>
<p>Fletcher Potes For themselves</p>	<p>The second amendment is very clear. "A well regulated militia, (civilians with military grade weapons who are well trained) necessary to the security of a free state, (needed to protect our states and rights) The RIGHT of the PEOPLE to KEEP AND BEAR</p>

	<p>(own and carry firearms) SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED (SHALL NOT be encroached upon)</p> <p>Needing to pay the government to carry your gun youâ€™re CONSTITUTIONALLY ALLOWED TO DO is THEREFORE UNCONSTITUTIONAL IN AND OF ITSELF.</p> <p>Criminals donâ€™t follow the law as it is. You think making it harder for law abiding people to protect themselves is gonna save innocent lives lives? It doesnâ€™t. Gun control didnâ€™t even come close to stopping brutal violence in the UK, and it wonâ€™t here in any state.</p>
<p>Miguel David For themselves</p>	<p>Constitutional carry should be legal for every law-abiding citizen because the right to protect oneself is fundamental and should not depend on permits or government approval. Individuals cannot rely on criminals to follow laws, and those intent on harm will ignore restrictions regardless. Allowing responsible citizens to carry firearms ensures they have the means to defend themselves and others in dangerous situations. Personal safety is a basic human right, and policies should reflect the reality that self-defense is often immediate and cannot wait for outside help.</p>
<p>Tyler Camper For themselves</p>	<p>Written Testimony in Support of HB26-1212</p> <p>To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>My name is Tyler Camper, and I am a resident of Colorado. I am writing today in strong support of HB26-1212, a bill that protects the rights of law-abiding citizens while reducing unnecessary government barriers to self-defense.</p> <p>This bill addresses an important issue: the ability of responsible individuals to exercise their right to carry a handgun without excessive regulation. Currently, many Coloradans must go through a permitting process that can be time-consuming, costly, and inconsistent depending on where they live. HB26-1212 ensures that individuals who are already legally allowed to</p>

	<p>possess a firearm are not further burdened by additional requirements simply to carry for personal protection.</p> <p>For many working people, especially those in rural areas or physically demanding jobs, self-defense is not theoretical—it is a real concern. Whether traveling long distances, working late hours, or being in isolated locations, the ability to carry a handgun can provide an added sense of safety and security. This bill recognizes that reality and trusts law-abiding citizens to act responsibly.</p> <p>Additionally, eliminating the need for repeated permit renewals reduces unnecessary bureaucracy while still maintaining all existing laws that prevent prohibited individuals from possessing firearms. HB26-1212 does not remove background checks or legal restrictions—it simply removes redundant steps for those already in compliance with the law.</p> <p>The provision that ensures consistency across jurisdictions is also important. Rights should not change from one city or county to another. This bill helps create a more uniform and fair system across the state, so that law-abiding citizens are treated equally regardless of where they live.</p> <p>In closing, I respectfully urge you to support HB26-1212. This legislation reinforces personal responsibility, streamlines outdated processes, and upholds the rights of Colorado residents.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tyler Camper</p>
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<p>Diana Rouse</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Regarding this testimony I am representing myself. I am strongly urging you to vote NO on this bill. the current law helps keep Colorado citizens safe from gun violence and at the very least deters individuals with questionable historical violence issues. You will hear testimony against this bill citing studies and numbers which support limiting concealed carry laws and also from those who feel their rights are being infringed upon but for me this personal. I am honoring a longtime dear friend today who one month ago lost her life, WHILE HIKING , after being shot by a gunman because, as he admitted, wanted her car. This same gunman admitted to killing an elderly woman while she was in her living room watching television.! He came from a state that allows permit less carry. It makes sense that that these types of unregulated, weak conceal carry restrictions result in higher rates of gun homicide and violent confrontations. Keep the citizens of Colorado safer by voting NO on this bill to keep our current laws in in place.</p>
<p>Malik Carrethers</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of HB26-1212 “ Constitutional Carry of Handgun</p> <p>House Judiciary Committee “ April 7, 2026</p> <p>Chair and members of the Committee,</p> <p>I am a resident of Colorado, and I strongly support HB26-1212. This bill restores the fundamental right of law-abiding adults to carry a handgun for self-defense without first needing government permission through a concealed handgun permit.</p> <p>The bill simply states that any person 18 years or older who is legally allowed to possess a handgun under federal and state law has the same authority to carry concealed as a current permit holder. It makes existing permits lifetime valid, repeals renewal requirements and temporary emergency permits, lowers the age for out-of-state permit recognition to 18, and eliminates local government authority to regulate concealed handgun carry”creating true statewide uniformity.</p> <p>This is not a radical change. Before 2013, Coloradans could lawfully carry without permits. The right to keep and bear arms is explicitly protected by the Second Amendment, which the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed applies to carrying</p>

	<p>handguns in public for self-defense (Heller, Bruen). Requiring a permit, fees, training mandates, or renewals turns a constitutional right into a revocable privilege—something the Founders rejected.</p> <p>Twenty-nine other states have already adopted constitutional carry. None have seen the crime waves predicted by opponents. Criminals do not obey permit laws; they prey on disarmed, law-abiding citizens. Removing barriers for responsible adults does not increase risk—it reduces bureaucracy and restores trust.</p> <p>HB26-1212 also saves the state hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in permit processing costs while respecting Article VI of the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law of the land.</p> <p>I urge the Committee to pass HB26-1212 without weakening amendments. Colorado citizens deserve the same freedom enjoyed in the majority of states and protected by our federal Constitution.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Malik Carrethers. A concerned Citizen</p>
<p>Kyle Rademacher For themselves</p>	<p>This bill needs to be passed as it is written. I’ve been a law abiding citizen of Colorado all my life. Worked in public safety as a FD Officer and Paramedic for over 40 years. I shouldn’t have to “apply” to protect my family or myself. That is a god given right and my business on how to accomplish that. Also why should I have to pay for that right? Once vetted I should be able to carry for life unless I commit a crime.</p>
<p>Hania Baird For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Hania Baird. I am a proud naturalized United States citizen who immigrated from a communist country where the government controlled every aspect of life. In the nation I left behind, ordinary citizens were forbidden from owning firearms. Self-defense was not a right—it was a privilege reserved only for those in power, leaving the rest of us defenseless against crime, tyranny, and oppression.</p>

	<p>I still remember the constant fear of knowing that if danger came to my door, I had no real way to protect my family or myself. The regime disarmed the people under the banner of “public safety,” yet violence and control only grew worse. That experience taught me a lasting truth: a disarmed population is a vulnerable one.</p> <p>When I arrived in America and later earned my citizenship, I was moved by the stark contrast. Our Founding Fathers recognized that the right to keep and bear arms is not a government-granted privilege, but a fundamental human right that pre-exists the Constitution. It serves as the ultimate guardian of all our other freedoms. The Second Amendment is not about hunting or recreation—it is about the individual’s ability to defend life, liberty, and property against any threat, whether criminal or governmental.</p> <p>This is why I strongly support constitutional carry. Law-abiding citizens should not need government permission to carry a handgun for self-defense. Turning a constitutional right into a permit process makes it a revocable privilege rather than a protected freedom. In a free society, responsible adults deserve to be trusted to protect themselves and their families without bureaucratic barriers.</p> <p>Having lived without these freedoms, I can say with deep conviction: the ability to legally carry a firearm brings a peace of mind that no government promise can match. It empowers the weak against the strong, the law-abiding against the lawless, and citizens against potential tyranny. Constitutional carry honors the trust our Founders placed in “We the People.”</p> <p>I am forever grateful to call America my home. I cherish every right in our Constitution—especially the Second Amendment. Having escaped a system that stripped its people of the means to defend themselves, I will always stand firmly in support of constitutional carry. It is more than policy; it is a declaration that in this country, we the people remain sovereign, armed, and free.</p>
Scott Mikels	Im 100% for the constitution carry

<p>For themselves</p>	
<p>Matthew Koziolk  For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Members of the Legislature,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support for legislation that would establish constitutional carry for law-abiding citizens in Colorado and ensure statewide preemption that prevents local municipalities from enacting laws that infringe upon fundamental constitutional rights.</p> <p>At its core, this issue is about the right to self-defense. The ability to protect oneself and one’s family is a natural and constitutionally recognized right. Law-abiding citizens should not be burdened with excessive regulations that delay or deny their ability to exercise this right. Constitutional carry respects responsible citizens by allowing them to carry a handgun without unnecessary government permission while still holding criminals accountable for unlawful behavior.</p> <p>It is also important to acknowledge a difficult but well-documented truth: many historical gun control laws in the United States were rooted in discriminatory intent. These laws were often used to disarm marginalized communities and deny them equal protection under the law. As lawmakers, I urge you to consider this history carefully and ensure that modern legislation does not continue patterns that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Additionally, the reality is that individuals are ultimately responsible for their own safety. Courts have consistently held that law enforcement does not have a specific legal duty to protect individuals from harm. While we deeply respect the role of law enforcement, this legal reality underscores why citizens must retain the ability to defend themselves when seconds matter and help may be minutes away.</p> <p>Statewide preemption is equally essential. A patchwork of inconsistent local laws creates confusion for lawful gun owners who are trying to follow the law. Fundamental constitutional rights should not change from one city to another. A uniform</p>

	<p>statewide standard protects both citizens and the integrity of the law.</p> <p>Finally, I respectfully ask that you consider the voices of everyday, law-abiding citizens when evaluating this issue. Public policy should reflect the rights and needs of the people you representâ€”not the influence of wealthy donors or advocacy organizations whose priorities may not align with those of your constituents.</p> <p>I urge you to support legislation that affirms the right to self-defense, respects constitutional freedoms, and ensures equal treatment under the law across all of Colorado.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>jeffrey pfleger</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>a right is a right not a privilege</p>
<p>Robert Clodfelter</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>HB26-1212 should be approved. 29 on the 50 states currently do not require a permit to carry a concealed firearm. Colorado should do the same. We need to get tough on crimes thru the judicial system not trying to control the population thru the legislative system. Firearms possession thru lawful possession is key deterrent against crime.</p>
<p>Dee Fleming</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill. It directly protects our right to keep and bear arms without jumping through lots of bureaucratic hoops.</p>
<p>Bert Callicoatt</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I urge members of this committee to support Constitutional Carry for the safety and protection of all Coloradans; our diverse citizenry needs weapons of self-defense to protect ourselves, families, loved ones.</p>
<p>Richard Hus</p>	<p>This is constitutional carryâ€”permitless carry for those legally allowed to possess firearmsâ€”and it is long overdue in</p>

<p>For themselves</p>	<p>Colorado. The strongest argument begins with the Constitution. The Second Amendment states that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” “Bear” historically meant to carry in public, and law-abiding citizens did so without licenses at the Founding. The Supreme Court’s 2022 Bruen decision made clear that governments cannot impose discretionary licensing schemes that treat this right as a privilege. Colorado’s current shall-issue system “requiring training, fees, fingerprints, and renewals” burdens a constitutional right. HB26-1212 removes the unnecessary bureaucracy while preserving all federal and state prohibitions on possession for felons, domestic violence offenders, and others. Critics claim it will increase crime, but data from the 29 states with constitutional carry disproves this. These states, spanning every region, show no statistically significant rise in violent crime, homicides, or firearm assaults tied to permitless carry. Rigorous studies find either no change or modest declines in serious violence, including reductions in rape and no increase in murder. Criminals already carry illegally regardless of the law. Constitutional carry simply ensures responsible citizens are not left defenseless by political bureaucracy. Colorado’s existing system creates real barriers: mandatory eight-hour training, fees, processing waits, and long drives for rural residents. These disproportionately harm low-income families (you know, the ones you are always claiming to champion for), the elderly, and working people who need quick access to self-defense. HB26-1212 eliminates these inequities without lowering safety standards “prohibited persons remain prohibited. Violent crime is driven far more by failed prosecutions, family breakdown, and cultural factors than by law-abiding adults carrying handguns. Colorado already maintains background checks and other safeguards. HB26-1212 simply aligns the state with the clear majority of other states and the original understanding of the Second Amendment. This reform respects the Constitution, strengthens self-defense, reduces costs, and treats adults as responsible citizens. The General Assembly should pass HB26-1212 without delay. Coloradans deserve the same rights already enjoyed in 29 other states.</p>
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<p>Chris Cline</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Self defense is not only constitutionally protected, but an intrinsic human right. By requiring law-abiding citizens to jump through hoops, it directly limits the ability to exercise that constitutional right. Please pass this legislation - criminals will still ignore it, but it will level the field for those of us who follow the law. Thank you.</p>
<p>jeany rush</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE JUDICIARY</p> <p>RE: HB26-1212 CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY OF HANDGUN</p> <p>SPONSORS: A FLANELL, C BARRON</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH, COLORADO CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE: YES</p> <p>FOLKS</p> <p>Well here we are again, debating whether you will all finally recognize the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution of these United States.</p> <p>I agree with the change of the age because there is too much discrepancy for a young person to be able to join the military, but not carry a weapon?</p> <p>But, you all let in approx. 20 million unlawful people, criminals, mentally ill people, sent here on purpose to create havoc. All the while our rights to protect ourselves, defend ourselves, have been chipped away by excessive, repeated, over reaching bills, statutes, and any other way you all can manage.</p> <p>Repeatedly we have maintained that tens of millions of lawful weapons owners have literally helped save so so many more lives, than the shootings, by mentally ill people, and who will always find a way to get themselves armed.</p> <p>It is clear, and in full light, that this body has an agenda to stop common sense procedures of gun ownership, and slowly, like      “Death by a thousand cuts” disarm this nation. That never ends well for Freedom.</p>

	<p>The rules already put in place are archaic, and need changed. This bill helps to repeal, and correct a host of issues, that never should have been codified in the first place.</p> <p>I also agree with the bill in making the bill to carry valid for life. That is fair, right, and the people already having the permits have already trained, and been conscientious to be prepared. The laws we have already handle unlawful activity surrounding weapons, including drugs, and other illegal activities.</p> <p>As for permits to conceal carry, I find it is foolish to stop that person from carrying on certain “SO CALLED SAFE SPACES” where that very person could be in a position to save lives. If they have already taken the classes, and gone through training, they are more likely to stop an active shooter, and would be an asset to the citizens. In light of the recent additional, overzealous, and over reaching RED FLAG additions, this is a welcome change!</p>
<p>Kevin Wells For themselves</p>	<p>Written Testimony in Support of HB26-1212</p> <p>Dear House Judiciary Committee,</p> <p>I am Kevin, a Denver resident and U.S. Marine Corps veteran. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB26-1212, Constitutional Carry of Handgun.</p> <p>The right to bear arms is not a government favor. it is a natural right and a core American duty.</p> <p>Our Founders designed an armed citizenry as the final check on tyranny. Requiring a permit to exercise this right only disarms the law-abiding while criminals carry without one.</p> <p>HB26-1212 restores that right for any law-abiding adult 18 or older. It removes bureaucratic barriers, ends local patchwork rules, and aligns Colorado law with the plain text of the Second Amendment and our state constitution.</p> <p>In a city facing rising violence, empowering responsible citizens to defend themselves is common sense and constitutional duty.</p>

	<p>Pass HB26-1212 without delay.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kevin Wells.</p> <p>Denver, Colorado</p>
<p>Gabriel Serafini</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I support this bill. We shouldn't need a permit to protect ourselves with a gun. It's crazy that we need this bill in the first place. I know this won't pass and when it doesn't it shows how most legislatures under the gold dome don't care about the rights of the people in Colorado. We don't need your permission to protect ourselves. It will keep people safe instead of "common sense" gun laws. If my representative votes no. I will not be voting for them in November.</p>
<p>Carter Sutfin</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I strongly believe the American people and stand out law abiding citizens of this great state have the right to carry and protect themselves, family, community and state. Im more comfortable and confident with my community knowing that myself and others can defend themselves at a moments notice. We all take risk stepping out the door every day into the world we live in, I wouldn't show up to a construction site without my tools. So why would I step out of the house without the proper tools and equipment to make this state safer and smarter. Law enforcement averages 7-18 minutes on average to respond. The only person protecting yourself is YOU.</p>
<p>Terik Steele</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Written Testimony in Support of Constitutional Carry in Colorado</p> <p>My name is Terik Steele, and I am a resident of Colorado. I am writing to express my support for constitutional carry legislation in our state.</p> <p>I recently moved to Colorado from North Dakota, a state that has adopted constitutional carry. Having lived under that system, I have seen firsthand how it functions in practice. Law-abiding citizens are trusted to exercise their rights responsibly, and the absence of a permit requirement does not lead to disorder or</p>

	<p>unsafe conditions. Instead, it reinforces a culture of personal responsibility and respect for the law.</p> <p>At its core, this issue is about the balance between public safety and individual liberty. The right to bear arms is not granted by government—it is a fundamental right recognized by both the United States Constitution and the Colorado Constitution. Constitutional carry simply affirms that law-abiding citizens should not be required to obtain government permission to exercise that right.</p> <p>Many responsible individuals already carry firearms for personal protection, especially in situations where law enforcement cannot immediately respond. Requiring permits, fees, and administrative steps can create unnecessary barriers for those who are otherwise fully compliant with the law. These barriers can disproportionately impact individuals who may not have the time or financial resources to navigate the permitting process.</p> <p>It is important to emphasize that constitutional carry does not remove accountability. Individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms would remain prohibited, and criminal misuse of a firearm would continue to be illegal and subject to strict penalties. The policy simply ensures that law-abiding citizens are not burdened with unnecessary requirements.</p> <p>My experience in North Dakota demonstrated that constitutional carry can coexist with safe communities and responsible gun ownership. I believe Colorado residents are equally capable of upholding those standards.</p> <p>As a Colorado resident, I value both personal responsibility and public safety. I believe constitutional carry reflects those values by trusting citizens while maintaining laws that address criminal behavior.</p>
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	<p>I respectfully urge you to support legislation that upholds the constitutional rights of Coloradans and removes unnecessary barriers for responsible individuals.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Terik Steele</p> <p>Windsor, CO</p>
<p>Charles Miller</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Charles Miller, I live in Commerce City Colorado.</p> <p>I am in favor of the constitutional right to carry a concealed firearm being in place for all of Colorado to exercise. I have been licensed to carry a concealed firearm in three separate states over the last 22 years. Now I am a husband and father to a wonderful infant daughter. My ability to protect my family should not be made difficult or require any permits, fees or licensing. The rising costs of living should never be accompanied by a rising cost for safety. An amendment to the state constitution would insure that not only I can have the ability to protect myself and my family from those who might wish to harm us, but others in worse financial situations can as well as. A right that all citizens in the United States should be able to freely exercise.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p>Lorette Diversey</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Vote 'YES' to HB26-1212. Support the citizens of Colorado in their Constitutional right to carry a firearm.</p>
<p>Sharlotte Mecca</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear members of the committee. I'm coming to you today not only as a Colorado native but as a survivor of domestic violence. As a lifelong Coloradan I grew up hunting and shooting. I have taken hunter safety I've taken concealed carry permit classes. I've taken defensive protection classes but still I have to jump through hoops just to protect myself. Being allowed to protect yourself if you're a law abiding citizen is a right that we were given in the constitution and no one should take that away from us. I</p>

	<p>also shouldn't be made to have to continually take classes or pay more money to be able to protect myself by carrying a weapon. To me that's just another way for the government to get more money from us. What if I was in a position that I couldn't afford all of those classes and fees to carry a weapon and protect myself as a law abiding citizen and something tragic happened to me? It's not fair to group everybody into one group there is good and bad in every group and when we do our background checks to purchase our firearm that should let you know who are the good people and who are the bad people. Good people do the background checks and what's necessary to purchase it bad guys don't care they'll buy it off the street but no cereal number. Please think of the rights of everyday people that are law abiding in Colorado right to protect themselves without jumping through rather hoops and cutting all the red tape</p>
<p>Anthony Edwards For themselves</p>	<p>I believe this bill is an honest representation of what we the people of Colorado want to see. It's a god given right to protect ourselves and we shouldn't have to jump through hoops or be burdened by costly courses to protect ourselves, property and loved ones.</p>
<p>Sarah McCaughey For themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for constitutional carry of handguns, particularly from the perspective of a woman who has experienced firsthand how vulnerable we can be in everyday situations.</p> <p>There is often a great deal of discussion about how to keep women safe—what we should wear, where we should go, how late we should be out, and what precautions we should take. Yet, despite all of this, situations still arise where we are left feeling defenseless.</p> <p>Almost every woman I know has some story of feeling unsafe at some point in her life. For me, it happened in a dark parking lot as I was leaving alone. Two men suddenly jumped out of their car</p>

and ran toward me. I was able to get into my car at the last second and lock the doors as they turned and ran away. I was luckyâ€”but itâ€™s impossible not to think about how differently that situation could have ended. Moments like that make it clear how quickly circumstances can change, and how little time there is to react.

In moments like these, waiting for help is not an option. Law enforcement plays a vital and important role, but they cannot be everywhere at once. When seconds matter, women deserve the ability to protect themselves.

Constitutional carry is not about promoting violenceâ€”it is about empowering responsible, law-abiding citizens to defend themselves when faced with immediate danger. For many women, it represents a practical and meaningful way to reclaim a sense of safety and control in uncertain situations.

Policies that make it more difficult for women to carry legal means of self-defense can unintentionally leave us more vulnerable. By supporting constitutional carry, we are acknowledging that women are capable, responsible, and deserving of the right to protect themselves without unnecessary barriers.

If we are serious about improving womenâ€™s safety, we should be open to solutions that give women real options in real-world situations. For me, and for many others, this is one of them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah McCaughey

<p>Richard Mack</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>I support HB26-1212. It helps remove a "patchwork" of laws where a law-abiding citizen could accidentally become a criminal just by crossing a city line or entering a campus. It is a uniform state standard so that gun owners aren't trapped by varying local ordinances.</p> <p>HB26-1212 as a way to align Colorado law with the "originalist" interpretation of the Constitution, treating the right to carry as a fundamental liberty rather than a government-granted privilege.</p> <p>HB26-1212 would make that permit valid for the life of the holder, removing the need for costly renewals every five years.</p>
<p>Aaron Christensen</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>This bill would bring Colorado carry laws in line with many other states as well as the constitution. Removing arbitrary barriers for lawful citizens to carry to protect themselves and others. This state already puts restrictions on the purchase of a firearm and its ammo that add cost and time to a protected right of the people, the placing of additional burdens only further punishes those with limited means and time which are the most self reliant group already due to the same constraints for their own safety. This does not remove responsibility in a defensive situation nor does it allow criminals to get away with anything. It simply recognizes that someone that has already gone through the hoops to obtain a firearm is also allowed to carry it in a lawful manner to included those visiting from other states.</p>
<p>Alen Dudo</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>We the people deserve to exercise our 2nd amendment rights without having to pay and deal with governments attempt at money grabbing by forcing us to pay for permits.</p>
<p>Robert Sommers</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Shall not be infringed, means shall not be infringed! The constitution wasn't written to tell we the people what we can and cannot do, it's to tell you the government what you can and cannot do. I will continue to carry my firearm however I want</p>

	regardless of the law. Law abiding citizens donâ€™t need your permission to carry their gun!
Nicholas Noel For themselves	Pass this. The second amendment of the US Constitution is very clear. Shall not be infringed.
Daniel Polk For themselves	The Colorado Concealed Carry Permit restrictions are not only complicated and confusing but put law abiding citizens at risk for unintentionally violating rules and regulations. By passing constitutional carry as many other states have, it will allow me to continue to protect my family from dangers while we go about our normal day to day activities. I believe that we already have noticed that violent crimes are happening and we need to acknowledge that we are putting our families at risks by not allowing for permit less carry.
Justin Romanes For themselves	I testify that this coincides with Americansâ€™ right to self-defense and protection in extreme circumstances
Sarah Norton-Kohn For themselves	While listening to this testimony I am becoming frustrated with the circular answers by the witnesses. My points that I would like to be taken into consideration.  1. If the supervision is what is needed. How in the world is the court supervision not sufficient?  2. If a law is what would stop unlawful possession then the laws surrounding felons would be sufficient.  3. Criminals will always break the law.  4. It is not the population that follows the law that we should be worried about!  5. Maybe make the punishment harsher for illegally possessing a firearm.
Adrienne Telman	This is how the constitutional right should be!

For themselves	
Greg Kremer For themselves	As a law-abiding Colorado resident age 64, I 100% support this bill in favor of Constitutional Carry.  Thank you-  Greg Kremer
Theodore Cahoon For themselves	It's good to see a firearms related bill come up that actually follows the Constitution!  Twenty-nine other states trust their citizens, Colorado should too. Pass this bill!
Claire Clemons For themselves	My name is Claire, and I am a Colorado resident, a healthcare professional, a wife, and a mother. I am writing to express my support for constitutional carry in Colorado.  As someone who works in healthcare and has dedicated my career to caring for others, I understand how unpredictable the world can be. I also understand the responsibility that comes with protecting life—both in my professional role and in my personal life as a parent. The right to defend oneself and one’s family is fundamental.  Constitutional carry affirms the principle that law-abiding citizens should not have to ask the government for permission to exercise a constitutional right. Responsible gun owners in Colorado already undergo background checks when purchasing firearms through legal channels and are subject to laws that prohibit possession by individuals who are not legally eligible. Constitutional carry simply ensures that those who are already lawful gun owners can exercise their right to self-defense without unnecessary barriers.

	<p>As a mother, I take safety very seriously. The responsibility of firearm ownership is something many families in Colorado approach with care, training, and respect. Constitutional carry does not eliminate accountability—it simply recognizes that the vast majority of gun owners are responsible citizens who should not be burdened with additional bureaucratic requirements in order to protect themselves.</p> <p>Colorado is a state with a strong tradition of personal responsibility, outdoor culture, and respect for individual rights. Policies that trust law-abiding citizens while continuing to hold criminals accountable are consistent with those values.</p> <p>I respectfully ask you to support constitutional carry legislation and uphold the rights of responsible Coloradans to defend themselves and their families.</p>
<p>Travis Burton For themselves</p>	<p>I, Travis James Burton, am a lifelong-born in Colorado citizen of this free state. I am a gunsmith with an Associate degree relating to firearms science. We as citizens should be able to carry when where and how we choose at any given time as is our constitutional right. Current requirements for a permit do little in my professional opinion to prepare a citizen anyways and training should be a bigger focus than permission for a liberty. Make Colorado a real patriot state again.</p>
<p>George Small For themselves</p>	<p>I am an 80 year old Colorado citizen that that enjoyed hunting and shooting activities all of my life. As I get older, I have gotten more concerned about my safety while traveling around Colorado. I have a current conceal permit and have jumped through past hoops to get it. With recent legislation, I have more hoops to go through. I support this legislation because it respects my person as a good user and citizen carry without the continued burdensome laws and regulations. I'm the innocent victim, not the criminal who cares about following the law.</p>
<p>Julie Madden Against</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity for sharing my opposition to this bill. There is no valid reasons NOT to require guidelines/licensing requirements to carry a gun. I'm sure you'll hear this alot today -</p>

<p>themselves</p>	<p>anyone who drives a car, handles heavy/specialized equipment, dispenses drugs/pharmaceuticals, and even provides legal services requires a license and should be of a specific age. It makes no sense to NOT have any type of registration for any person using/administering/providing a service/using equipment that could lead to severe bodily (and emotional/mental) harm to another person. It's absolutely ridiculous to NOT have an age limit on gun use. A toddler/infant/child probably wouldn't even have the strength to pull the trigger.</p> <p>I strongly oppose this bill and hope my representatives will agree. I could go on and on about gun violence but we all know that's a reality. Why would we choose to allow more uneducated/unregistered/unskilled users use a gun?</p>
<p>Jordan de Moraes</p> <p>For</p> <p>themselves</p>	<p>Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Jordan de Moraes, and I am a registered independent from New Castle, Colorado. I have lived in this state my entire life, and I am writing in support of HB26-1212.</p> <p>As a lifelong Coloradan, I believe strongly in personal responsibility, individual liberty, and the right of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families. Colorado has a long tradition of valuing both freedom and common sense, and I believe this bill reflects those values. Responsible adults who are legally allowed to possess a handgun should not be forced to go through unnecessary government hurdles in order to exercise their right to self-defense.</p> <p>This issue is not partisan for me. As an independent, I try to look at legislation based on principle, fairness, and practical effect rather than party labels. HB26-1212 respects the rights of responsible citizens while still preserving penalties for those who misuse firearms or are prohibited from possessing them. Criminals do not follow permitting laws, but honest citizens do,</p>

	<p>and too often those citizens are the ones burdened by extra cost, delay, and regulation.</p> <p>Living in western Colorado also gives me a strong appreciation for the fact that law enforcement response times are not always immediate. In communities like mine, the ability to defend yourself in a dangerous situation can matter greatly. Law-abiding citizens should not lose that ability simply because they have not completed a permitting process.</p> <p>I support HB26-1212 because I believe constitutional rights should be treated as rights, not privileges reserved only for those who can afford fees, classes, and administrative barriers. Please vote yes on this bill.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Anthony Bono For themselves</p>	<p>I am in favor of passing HB26-1212</p>
<p>Dan Spomer For themselves</p>	<p>My testimony is very simple:</p> <p>I am a Colorado native, born in the 1960s. The changes in how this State operates that I have seen over these decades are troubling, to say the least.</p> <p>Colorado residents’ Second Amendment rights have been slowly, yet constantly degraded over the last couple of decades.</p> <p>I realize the vast majority of residents reside in or near the metro area, but there are still many of us in the outlying, rural areas where this bill makes complete sense. In fact, I would venture to</p>

	<p>guess that it is already a reality in many parts of the State, and will continue to be so in perpetuity.</p> <p>I am at a loss how a rancher, resident or farmer in a remote, rural county but we subject to the same carry laws as a downtown Denver, or Highlands resident in completely different realities.</p> <p>Perhaps the legislature could stop putting band aids on their urban problems that affect all of us? No one within a hundred miles of Denver pays even the least amount of attention to what you pass, anyway. It simply is not realistic in everyday life.</p> <p>I have no doubt this bill will be killed by Democrats, but I felt the need to speak up in its support.</p> <p>Let's make Colorado Colorado again. Place the trust in the citizens of this State, which is exactly what the US and Colorado constitution explicitly state. We know what we're doing out here. Leave us alone and go waste your time and tax money on something else.</p>
<p>Hector Enriquez For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Hector Manuel Enriquez Torres II, and I am a resident of Colorado. I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 26-1212.</p> <p>I believe this bill represents a positive and necessary step forward for our state. It addresses important issues that impact individuals, families, and communities across Colorado, and it does so in a way that promotes fairness, safety, and long-term stability.</p> <p>HB26-1212 demonstrates a commitment to thoughtful, responsible policymaking. By taking action on this issue, you are helping ensure that Colorado continues to grow in a way that</p>

	<p>reflects our shared values—protecting residents, supporting communities, and creating a better future for everyone.</p> <p>This legislation has the potential to make a real, meaningful difference. It shows that Colorado is willing to lead, take challenges seriously, and implement solutions that benefit the public as a whole.</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 26-1212 and help move this important legislation forward. Your decision will have a lasting impact on the well-being of people across our state.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to Colorado.</p>
<p>Harry Hattingh For himself</p>	<p>This will be the best bill passed on 2A in Colorado in years. It will eliminate the local and state money grabbing efforts to hinder citizens who wish to arm and conceal carry</p>
<p>Davon Williams None himself</p>	<p>Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>My name is Davon Williams, and I am a candidate for Colorado House District 3, which includes communities in both Denver and Arapahoe County. I previously served as a member of a local board of education, where I worked on issues related to community safety, accountability, and public trust.</p> <p>I am submitting testimony today because I recognize that HB26-1212 raises important and complex questions that sit at the intersection of constitutional rights and public safety.</p> <p>Many Coloradans view the right to self-defense as fundamental, and that perspective deserves respect. At the same time, there</p>

	<p>are legitimate concerns from communities across our state about safety, training, and the broader impacts of changes to firearm policy.</p> <p>In my view, effective policymaking requires us to take both of these realities seriously. As you consider this legislation, I encourage careful attention to several key factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>â€¢ Ensuring responsible firearm ownership, including appropriate training and clear standards</li> <li>â€¢ Maintaining clarity for law enforcement and the public</li> <li>â€¢ Considering the role of local communities in addressing their specific safety needs</li> <li>â€¢ Evaluating potential unintended consequences, particularly in diverse communities with differing public safety concerns</li> </ul> <p>This is not a simple issue, and it deserves a thoughtful, balanced approach that reflects both individual rights and our shared responsibility to keep communities safe.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Davon Williams</p>
<p>Adam Moody For themselves</p>	<p>â€œShall not be infringedâ€</p> <p>It's time for Colorado legislators to cease the degradation of our constitutional rights. The state has overstepped its authority on the regulation of the citizens rights and it's time for the state to go back to more clear and simple laws. My family does our own education and research for safety in order to protect</p>

	<p>ourselves. The state is only allowing criminals to get away with gun violence while punishing the mass law abiding citizens. If we want safety to return to Colorado and crime to go down this is a good first step towards sane regulation.</p>
<p>N Scott Pexton For themselves</p>	<p>The natural right to bear arms and defend ones self is protected by the Constitution of the United States of America in the 2nd Amendment to the constitution. Twenty-two of the 50 states in this union require permission to carry a firearm concealed. Colorado is sadly one of them. A state that has traditionally been known for high levels of personal freedom, Colorado should have been one of the first states to not infringe our right to bear arms. This, unfortunately, has not been the case. The state of Colorado has continued to be a burden to law abiding firearms owners in as many ways as can possibly be thought up by the controlling, nanny state, safe-sick-society members of the legislature and regulatory body. This has got to stop. Get out of the way. Pass HB26-1212 - Constitutional Carry of Handgun. Cease and desist from infringing on our natural rights.</p> <p>Scott Pexton Lakewood Colorado</p>

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD FAIRFAX,

VIRGINIA 22030



**NRA**

April 1, 2026

House Judiciary Committee  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: House Bill 26-1212 – Constitutional Carry of Handgun**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) and its thousands of members across Colorado, I am writing to convey our unequivocal support for House Bill 26-1212. This historically significant legislation affirms the fundamental right of law-abiding citizens to exercise self-defense without prior authorization from the government.

House Bill 26-1212 aptly recognizes that an individual who is at least 18 years of age and legally authorized to possess a handgun should have the same authority to carry a concealed firearm as a permit holder. By eliminating the requirement to obtain a permit for lawful carry, Colorado aligns with the 29 other states that have already enacted Constitutional Carry legislation. These states have demonstrated that reinstating Second Amendment rights does not increase firearm-related crime; rather, it empowers law-abiding citizens to serve as their own primary defenders. Recently, several states, including West Virginia, have continued to extend their Constitutional Carry protections, thereby further exemplifying the effectiveness and safety of this policy model.

In addition to recognizing permitless carry, this bill addresses several critical inequities in Colorado's current system:

- **Protecting Young Adults:** By decreasing the minimum age for a permit from 21 to 18 years, this legislation ensures that individuals who are legally eligible to serve in the military and participate in elections are not unjustly denied their right to self-defense.

- **Lifetime Permits:** The bill eliminates the burdensome and redundant renewal process by establishing permits as valid for the lifetime of the holder. This pragmatic amendment ensures that a citizen's right to carry does not suddenly lapse due to administrative red tape.
- **Statewide Uniformity (Preemption):** Colorado has historically permitted a fragmented mosaic of local ordinances that inadvertently infringe upon the rights of travelers and residents. This legislation abolishes local jurisdiction over the regulation of open and concealed carry of handguns, thereby guaranteeing the consistent application of the Second Amendment throughout the state and eliminating

The NRA-ILA is committed to safeguarding the rights of all law-abiding citizens to acquire, own, and utilize firearms for lawful purposes. We contend that HB 26-1212 represents a significant advancement in ensuring that "the criteria and procedures for issuing permits" are maintained as a matter of statewide importance, rather than being subject to local overreach.

We respectfully encourage the members of this committee to support law-abiding residents of Colorado by voting in favor of House Bill 26-1212.

Sincerely,

*Kelvin Curtis*

Kelvin Curtis  
State Director – Colorado  
NRA-ILA

