

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
 03/08/2023 Upon Adjournment
 SB23-169 Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
KRISTEN BARA Against herself	I am opposed to SB23-169. This is yet another infringement on our 2nd Amendment right. Crime has increased exponentially in Colorado due to poor public policy. Stripping away gun rights from law abiding citizens is not the answer. We have no problem sending our 18-year-olds to war and yet, we will not allow them to possess a firearm to protect themselves here at home. Also, this bill decreases the penalty for those illegally giving a firearm to a juvenile. I actually had to read this twice I was so stunned. This law is intended to make it harder for law abiding citizens to own guns, however decreases the penalty of providing a firearm to a juvenile. Continuing to decrease the penalties for these offenses is only contributing to our crime problem. The current age to obtain a firearm and penalty we have for giving juveniles firearms that are currently in place are sufficient. Please oppose this bill.
Diana Bara Against herself	I oppose HB23-169. If a 12-year-old can be treated by a psychologist for gender dysphoria, have a gender change that is permanent, without parental consent, then an 18-year-old should certainly be old enough to purchase a gun. If an 18-year-old is old enough to vote and join the military then they should be mature enough to handle a gun responsibly. History proves that gun control does not save lives. It leaves the law-abiding citizens vulnerable and defenseless against a criminal environment, such as the one that our state legislators have created. Violent crime in Colorado is at a 25 year high with murder on the rise. Cars are stolen from our driveways. Homeless occupy our parks and tents are starting to line our streets. We have 266 registered sex offenders residing in Longmont where I live. Also, on the rise is aggravated assault, larceny theft and the Sinaloa Cartel with their Fentanyl business. I would want my 18-year-old daughter to be able to defend herself against predators. Gun control also leaves the people defenseless against a government that is prone to oppress them, an occurrence that is increasing in our country. I would prefer that our legislators pass bills that are tough on crime, keep criminals off the streets, and not for more gun control for its law-abiding citizens. With the current criminal environment, the lack of concern for its citizens well-being, more gun control will make us more vulnerable. The criminal will not obey the laws and will hit soft targets where there is gun control. When the government no longer protects us, we need to protect ourselves.
Peter Maher Against herself	Our country allows us to drive, be drafted, vote , hold a job and pay taxes at 18. Being in the military a 18yo is expected to defend there country. As is a police officer who can be 18. If we enforce the laws on

	<p>the books and realize criminals will never follow he laws and will acquire weapons illegally then changing the age makes no difference. We had less shootings back when schools had Riflery clubs and basic gun safety was taught at school to students as young as 15. Age is not a factor.</p>
Jennifer Bird Against themselves	<p>This law has backwards logic. It strips the right for young, law-abiding citizens to own a firearm. However, at the same time makes it a lesser crime to provide firearms to children!</p> <p>Young women should have the right to defend themselves. They can particularly be exposed on college campuses. Don't strip them of this right and put them at a higher risk.</p>
Thomas Greco Against themselves	<p>SB-169, if a person is too young at 18 to purchase a firearm, they are too young to vote, enter a contract, or have an abortion. If we are to restrict the purchase of a firearm, this logic should apply to all other aspects. If we are unwilling to restrict access to abortion at 18, we ought not to restrict access to a firearm.</p> <p>In states where we have seen an increase in gun restrictions, like Chicago, we have seen a dramatic increase in crime. If you truly want to reduce violent crime, two things must happen. First, the state must punish violent crimes. Second, the state should provide no barrier to the tolls of self-defense – the criminal must be afraid of the victim – there is no other way.</p>
Laurel Burns For themselves	<p>RE: SB 23-169</p> <p>Every American has seen countless instances of young men with guns mowing down innocent people.</p> <p>It is time to reverse the "Guns for Everyone" policy and acknowledge that it is unsafe to allow people under the age of 21 to own or possess firearms without adequate adult supervision.</p> <p>All adults have experienced restrictions place on them because of age, such as the purchase of alcohol and tobacco, and the right to drive. It is even more important that age restrictions are placed on the purchase of lethal weapons.</p> <p>It is the duty of our elected representatives to take the necessary steps to protect the lives and safety of their constituents.</p> <p>I request that the members of this committee VOTE YES on this bill.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Dale Theiling For themselves	<p>As a concerned citizen of Colorado, I would like to state my position of support for SB23-169, increasing the age to buy a shotgun or rifle to 21.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Virginia Mack For themselves	<p>I am a psychiatric nurse practitioner with 20 years of experience. In my field, we routinely conduct risk assessments to evaluate an individual for risk of violent threat to themselves (suicide) and others (homicide). Sadly the prefrontal cortex, the area that affects impulse control and judgment in the human brain, is not fully mature until the age of 25 and I have lost a few clients to firearm suicide over the years, all of whom were under 25 years old. To restrict ownership to at least 21 is an evidenced-based strategy with regard to suicide prevention as individuals under 25 are among the highest risk group of harming both themselves and others. It is one critical strategy that will help our state with regard to gun violence prevention.</p> <p>Thanks so much</p>
Richard Werner For themselves	<p>I support passage of SB23-169. Increasing the minimum age to purchase firearms will reduce the incidence of gun violence, and, specifically, gun violence committed by youths. In addition, the cause of death to youths by gun violence will also be reduced.</p>
Mark Kaiser Against themselves	<p>REsearch shows and suggests that raising the age limits would not end the threat of school shootings. And research also shows that 18-21 year olds are more likely to be victims of violent crime.</p> <p>One only has to go back in time to Representative Joe Salazars comment about "we have call boxes, we have safe zones, we have whistles". While he was talking about young women being raped on college campuses, it appears that if you don't know you are being assaulted or raped, this law would just take away the right of the 18-21 years olds to defend themselves.</p>
Agnes Holena For themselves	<p>As a highschool student, the fear of school shootings is a very real thought that crosses my mind. After evaluating Senate Bill 23-169, I believe that changing the legal purchasing age of the mentioned firearms (handgun and semiautomatic centerfire rifles) to at least 21 years will prevent further acts of violence from occurring. In school we are taught about how to act when there is a shooter on campus but something they don't teach us about is how majority of the time the shooter is a former or current student of the school. According to the GAO, of K-12 shootings, "Half were committed by current or former students' ". In addition, 18 to 20-year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and older. As a highschool student I should not be on edge when I leave my classroom to use the restroom. SB23-169 is one step closer to making students, like me, feel safer during the school day.</p>
Ian Estis Against themselves	<p>Why do you think it's ok for an 18 year old to go to war and die for their country yet they shouldn't be allowed to purchase a firearm to defend themselves? When starting out as a young adult you can't always afford to live in real nice neighborhood with no crime. Young adults are more likely to need firearms to defend themselves because they have to live in worse neighborhoods and take more dangerous jobs just to pay their bills.</p>

<p>Tiffany Taylor Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello my name is Tiffany Taylor i am a colorado resident and a mother concerned for my childs future rights.</p> <p>In regards to SB 23-169 18 can form legal contacts. 18 can vote. 18 can drive. 18 can start a family. 18 can run for public office. 18 can be a Peace Officer. 18 can be a Fire Fighter. 18 can enlist in the Army. 18 is subject to the entire Criminal Code. 18 is out of parents house, living on their own. 18 can be sued.</p> <p>18 can carry arms in the defense of our country, in recent past, 18 was old enough to be a fully qualified US Navy Naval Aviator, a Pilot in command of an Avenger torpedo bomber. And yet the suggestion is made that 18 is not old enough to be a safe and responsible, law abiding firearms owner. The Answer is a resounding "no" to the idea that any 18 year old should be prevented from legally owning firearms. A resounding YES to them being allowed to carry arms in the defense of themselves, their family, and their residence. Folks seem to be determined not to trust young people. ENOUGH ALREADY. Will some 18 year olds make bad choices? Certainly. I have also seen 40 year olds that made the same bad choices. I want my son to be able to have the right to defend himself when he is of age and living on his own. Just like I have had the right to do.</p> <p>So today I urge you to vote No on SB23-169.</p>
<p>Michael Koenig Against themselves</p>	<p>If we are going to change the age to 21 should that not also apply to other rights? Like Voting? or Jury Duty? or Military? We should be more responsible for the way our kids are being raised rather than just hiding the problem. Teaching them respect for firearms and how they operate would be a good start.</p>
<p>Julie Taub Amend themselves</p>	<p>Dear Committee members: Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony. I am a physician and a parent. I care deeply about this issue & I am concerned about several loopholes within the proposed bill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allowing family to "gift" a gun to a person <21 yo: This appears to allow teenagers to possess a handgun or semiautomatic weapon when the intent of the bill to is prevent young people at this vulnerable stage to have access to a gun. This exception would not have prevented the shooter who killed four and wounded 7 at the Oxford High School Shooting in Michigan in 2021. (A teenage shooter was given a semi-automatic handgun by his parents). 2. Does it make sense to allow someone 25 yrs or older to sanction the possession of a handgun or semiautomatic weapon in an individual < 21

	<p>yo? This bill doesn't ensure the adult has any special expertise or training to enforce safety.</p> <p>The brain continues to develop until age 25, & within the adolescent years we know biologically children are unable to fully appreciate risk. We don't allow exceptions to underage alcohol or tobacco, why would we allow exceptions to dangerous weapons that could kill many others or the child themselves?</p>
<p>Julie Taub Amend themselves</p>	<p>Dear Senator Mullica: Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony. I am a physician and a parent. I care deeply about this issue & I am concerned about several loopholes within the proposed bill.</p> <p>1. Allowing family to "gift" a gun to a person <21 yo: This appears to allow teenagers to possess a handgun or semiautomatic weapon when the intent of the bill to is prevent young people at this vulnerable stage to have access to a gun. This exception would not have prevented the shooter who killed four and wounded 7 at the Oxford High School Shooting in Michigan in 2021. (A teenage shooter was given a semi-automatic handgun by his parents).</p> <p>2. Does it make sense to allow someone 25 yrs or older to sanction the possession of a handgun or semiautomatic weapon in an individual < 21 yo? This bill doesn't ensure the adult has any special expertise or training to enforce safety.</p> <p>The brain continues to develop until age 25, & within the adolescent years we know biologically children are unable to fully appreciate risk. We don't allow exceptions to underage alcohol or tobacco, why would we allow exceptions to dangerous weapons that could kill many others or the child themselves?</p>
<p>Beckett Nelson-Gardner For themselves</p>	<p>If one was to compile all the shootings of the year of 2022. If one was to compare the amount of deaths of teenagers by cars to the ones killed by a gun. Did you know this statistic about the likelihood of death in a household with a gun in it. Because as someone who has seen all of these statistics, and many more in full countless times. They mean nothing when you're in that situation. They are nothing when faced with a barrel of a gun.</p> <p>So I do this a lot. Ya know, going to city counsel, environmental board and DPS board meetings. Thanks to my standing in the world, as someone who even somewhat has time to do stuff like this. I feel as though it's my job to do it. Especially for thoughts who don't have the time to be here. And though ironically I am most likely not here, as I have missed too much school already. I am hoping my message is still getting through. The message that, I need not be writing this at 9:49 pm. That I should be using this time to get good grades in class as a student. That I should be using my precious time on Earth to be living my life and living it with friends who are still around, or for some who still should be around.</p>

	<p>Though I don't speak for my school as a whole, we knew Luis Garcia. We knew him. We knew him as a teammate, as a friend and as a family member. And while we've all heard the spiel that gun violence is bad, that I knew Luis and that I as a kid should not have to do this. It's true. As we are children, teenagers and, of course, young adults who could have died ourselves and who could have been the family of anyone here today or any day. And the fact that this speech alone has as many similarities as I mentioned before to others on this horrid topic, is not OK.</p> <p>So what haven't we in this room heard yet. Well that's the sound of this bill being passed. So despite the fact that you may not support or would not vote to pass Senate Bill 23-169. I would beg for my life and the limited time I have in this life, for you to please pass this bill. Thank you.</p>
Jacob Hodges Against themselves	<p>Aside from the obvious erosion of our rights, this specific bill is appalling because it removes young adults' ability to defend themselves. Young adults often leave their parents' houses between 18-21 and these people would now have no way to defend themselves in their homes. This bill will harm young people, especially women, while providing no benefit to our safety.</p>
Julie Taub Amend themselves	<p>Dear Senator Danielson,</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony. I am a physician & a parent. I appreciate this bill's intention to increase the minimum age to buy a firearm, however there are several loopholes that are concerning, namely:</p> <p>A) allowing family to gift a gun to someone < 21 yo, regardless of whether a semiautomatic weapon or handgun. This exception wouldn't have prevented the Oxford High School shooting in 2021 in which a teenage shooter was given a semiautomatic handgun by his parents.</p> <p>B) allowing an underage person to have possession of a gun (including a semiautomatic weapon or handgun) in the presence of someone 25 yrs or older</p> <p>We know biologically the adolescent brain continues to develop until age 25, & within the vulnerable teenage years a child is unable to fully appreciate risk. We don't allow exceptions to underage drinking or smoking, why would we allow underage possession of a dangerous weapon that could kill numerous innocent bystanders or the child themselves?</p> <p>Thank you for your time & your efforts to curb gun violence.</p>
Julie Taub Amend themselves	<p>Dear Representative Duran,</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony. I am a physician & a parent. I appreciate this bill's intention to increase the minimum age to buy a firearm, however there are several loopholes that are concerning, namely:</p>

	<p>A) allowing family to gift a gun to someone < 21 yo, regardless of whether it is a semiautomatic weapon or handgun. This exception wouldn't have prevented the Oxford High School shooting in 2021 in which a teenage shooter was given a semiautomatic handgun by his parents.</p> <p>B) allowing an underage person to have possession of a gun (including a semiautomatic weapon or handgun) in the presence of someone 25 yrs or older. What training or expertise in safety is that adult required to possess to keep an underage person safe w a dangerous weapon?</p> <p>We know biologically the adolescent brain continues to develop until age 25, & within the vulnerable teenage years a child is unable to fully appreciate risk. We don't allow exceptions to underage drinking or smoking, why would we allow underage possession of a dangerous weapon that could kill numerous innocent bystanders or the child themselves?</p> <p>Thank you for your time & your efforts to curb gun violence.</p>
<p>Julie Taub Amend themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representative Hamrick,</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony. I am a physician & a parent. I appreciate this bill's intention to increase the minimum age to buy a firearm, however there are several loopholes that are concerning, namely:</p> <p>A) allowing family to gift a gun to someone < 21 yo, regardless of whether it is a semiautomatic weapon or handgun. This exception wouldn't have prevented the Oxford High School shooting in 2021 in which a teenage shooter was given a semiautomatic handgun by his parents.</p> <p>B) allowing an underage person to have possession of a gun (including a semiautomatic weapon or handgun) in the presence of someone 25 yrs or older. What training or expertise in safety is that adult required to possess to keep an underage person safe w a dangerous weapon?</p> <p>We know biologically the adolescent brain continues to develop until age 25, & within the vulnerable teenage years a child is unable to fully appreciate risk. We don't allow exceptions to underage drinking or smoking, why would we allow underage possession of a dangerous weapon that could kill numerous innocent bystanders or the child themselves?</p> <p>Thank you for your time & your efforts to curb gun violence.</p>
<p>Kristine Peterson Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill must not go forward. How can you tell an eighteen year old they are old enough to join the military and die for this country but prohibit them from owning a firearm!</p>

Noah Shurz For themselves	Hi, my name is Noah Shurz and I go to East High School. The average age of school shooters, since 1966, is age 18. These people are able to legally purchase guns and cause mass killings of school-age children. As children, we have to write our concerns with safety in our schools to you, our legislators. We should not have to make these arguments to you, as you've seen at my school East High School, we have had time and time again to be locked down or on secure perimeters due to guns, therefore we should restrict purchases to age 21 to take guns out of high school and college-age children.
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Matt Gillette Against themselves	This bill is wholly opposed to the basic tenants of the 2cnd amendment both in its structure and intent. Further this bill has no basis in studies or empirical data that would suggest it would increase public safety. I would ask that this bill be tabled immediately.
Jesse Montoya Against themselves	I would like to reach out about bill169 I am against it for several reasons. This bill will not let it be legal for young generations to go hunting or sports shooting, taking away their rights to freedom and learning from these experiences. Taking away their ability to learn how to handle a firearm safely and properly, but allowing them to go into the military at 18 and handle guns how does this make sense. Also there are several young adults that do competitive shooting in a controlled environment and have the potential to get scholarships through these events to better their education. This will also have an economic impact on our state and the cpw not being able to sell licenses. Thx I hope you will vote against this bill and other radical control bills.
Joanne Brothers For themselves	Thank you Mr. Chairman and the rest of the committee for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Joanne Brothers and I am here representing myself. I am here in support of Senate Bill SB 23-169. I am in favor of this bill for several reasons. I am a member of the Boulder community that lives 2 miles for the Table Mesa King Soopers where the tragic event took place over a year ago. I think increasing the age will make for a sager state and our communities. There is not reason a young person needs a gun, unless it is for hunting. It will be a tremendous help to the policing community to have guns limited to 21 and above. This is an area where the whole community can support

	<p>policing. These past months are showing an increase of more and more children, families and people are being killed, injured and traumatized by guns. I am traumatized every time I have to walk into my King Soopers. You have to act. Something must be done. This is a step in the right direction. Colorado should be a leader in protecting their citizens.</p>
<p>Mike Acresti Against themselves</p>	<p>I had the joy and privilege of taking my 12 year old hunting for a doe pronged horn last year. We got one on our first day out. He learned how to field dress, skin, process, and cook the meat. This bill would not only rob many parents and children of precious experiences and memories like my dad and I had as a child, but it'd rob our children of the tremendous learning experience that comes with youth hunting.</p>
<p>Joseph Wilkey Against themselves</p>	<p>I am STRONGLY Against SB23-169 and others like it. They do nothing but hurt law abiding citizens who have reached the age of legal adulthood that are constitutionally protected. Anyone that votes for this bill and others like it, should be removed from their post as they are voting against the Constitution of the United States of America. Which they swore to uphold! You are on the wrong side of the line and of history.</p>
<p>Arlea Resseguie Against themselves</p>	<p>Colorado Senate Committee - As a Colorado native, non-hunter, I urge you to vote against SB23-169. This bill directly attacks youth hunting, which is the right of the people to pass down for their future generations. The ability to educate the youth in firearm safety is necessary in keeping our state safe and spreading awareness that firearms are tools to be respected.</p>
<p>Marilyn Davis Against themselves</p>	<p>I am against this law passing. A certain age does not guarantee a person will be responsible or respectful enough to own and use a firearm. My 14-year-old son as well as both my younger daughters own their own firearms and are very responsible. They have attended hunter safety class, as well as undergone much teaching and hands on experience from their parents. They know about handling firearms safely and with respect. They do shooting sports through 4H. They all hunt in order to provide meat for our family. They use their firearms as a protection against predators on our ranch. Proper use of firearms and the ethical hunting we practice provides them with the ability to show discipline, responsibility and respect for nature and their place in it as protectors and providers. If you change the age law so severely, you will be denying kids that have worked hard for this privilege, the ability to prove themselves ethical and responsible people that grow up hunting and caring for their family. They will not be able to share that privilege with their children. Truly that is a very sad and unfortunate thought. Our family hunts together, it is a time honored tradition. It is an important aspect in their life. It is their way of life on many levels. If a child is not responsible enough, then he will not pass the hunters safety course, which is put in place in Colorado to make sure that children are not turned loose with fire arms without the proper training and knowledge. To me, this is a great way to ensure that, and changing the legal age would only be a detriment to this. So perhaps instead of putting time and effort into changing the legal age, put more time and</p>

	<p>effort into putting hunter safety classes together and teaching children what they need to know to be safe and responsible.</p>
<p>Ronnie Broyles Against themselves</p>	<p>I am here today to speak against SB23-169, a bill to raise the age to purchase a long gun from 18 to 21 years of age. This bill is a slap in the face to everyone who is old enough to wear the uniform of this county in that you are telling 18 to 20 year olds that they are more than welcome to wear the uniform of this country and they are more than welcome to wage war in its defense and to die for it if necessary BUT they ARE NOT worthy in your eyes or the eyes of those who will vote in favor of this travesty of a bill to enjoy the EXACT SAME Constitutional Rights as their 21 year old peers.</p> <p>An 18 year old in this country is deemed an adult for the purposes of entering into legal contracts, enlisting in the armed services, voting, operating a motor vehicle with an unrestricted license and serving on a jury among other things. They have enjoyment of each portion of the Bill of Rights as provided for under the Constitution with the sole exception of being able to purchase a handgun, which by federal law requires a person to be 21 years of age or greater.</p> <p>You will of course raise objections to this statement by saying an 18 year old is not old enough to drink alcohol—drinking alcohol is not a Constitutional right and quite frankly, neither is driving a car. Your zealousness to restrict our Constitutional rights is astonishing. The majority party despises the 2nd Amendment and sees it as a privilege to be restricted at your whim. If you legitimately feel that an 18 year old shouldn't be allowed to purchase or possess a long gun—you should also be willing to raise the age of enlistment in the national guard, the age to drive, the age to vote, the age to sit on a jury and the full age of majority. This bill is a farce. It is also a foregone conclusion how this committee will vote. This committee, like the legislature, is comprised primarily of the majority party and as it has done on previous bills it will vote along party lines. Your minds were made up before you ever sat down today.</p> <p>There are more important issues which should and need to be addressed in this state, yet you waste taxpayer time and money in order to placate pro-gun control lobbyists who are pouring money into Colorado in an effort to turn a RIGHT into a PRIVILEGE. Please, stop voting along party lines and vote no on SB23-169</p>
<p>Victoria Hirsch Against themselves</p>	<p>My name is Victoria Hirsch and I am a 17 year old resident of Colorado. My family began shooting a few years ago, both as a fun family activity and to make sure we were all capable and prepared to defend ourselves, should the worst case occur. Since we began shooting, I have participated in IDPA pistol competitions; A Girl and a Gun, a program with the intent to inform women throughout the country about gun safety and how to properly defend themselves; with and without a</p>

	<p>firearm; and a 3 Gun competition in Missouri, which included pistol, rifle, and shotgun portions. If the age to own or purchase a rifle were to increase to 21, I would no longer be able to participate in 3 Gun competitions or Girl and a Gun conferences in Colorado without a parent or guardian standing by my side and watching my every move for the next 3 years. My siblings and I have been taught how to correctly operate and handle every firearm we have used before we even began to shoot. I believe arming and educating law-abiding citizens would be more effective in reducing crime than simply taking away the 2nd amendment right of a legal adult to "keep and bear arms", or in this case, be in possession of a rifle.</p>
<p>Tracey Mackey Against themselves</p>	<p>I am opposed to this bill to increase the age limit to purchase any type of gun. When you are 18 you are able to join the military and defend our country. You are able to handle and shoot rifles if all styles and caliber. Are we going to ban 18 year olds from military service? How about banning military members from purchasing certain guns?</p> <p>An 18 year old is legally an adult.</p> <p>What is the difference between an "assault rifle" and a semi-automatic rifle? The label that has been put on it.</p> <p>What is the ultimate goal of this bill? If the goal is safety, it misses the mark. If we are concerned about safety, why don't we require gun safety classes in school? Or gun safety classes for parents? Guns aren't the problem.</p> <p>We should have a ban on digital violence training programs like "Grand Theft Auto." Our children are being desensitized and taught by these games that violent crimes are ok. Many children cannot tell the difference between a video game and real life. Again, guns aren't the problem.</p> <p>This bill is just another infringement on our second amendment rights. It's just another step to ultimately remove our right to own guns and defend ourselves.</p>
<p>Tarif Ahmed Against themselves</p>	<p>This bill is outrageous - we as a society have decided that the age of adulthood is 18. This is when someone can vote and therefore the age where the constitutional right to bear arms is effective.</p> <p>Has anyone who thought this was a good idea ever run the numbers of how many gun owners are in this age group versus how many commit crimes in this age group? What is that percentage?</p> <p>If someone can go and fight for our country at this age, then they are old enough to have access to their constitutional rights at this age. Furthermore, the same types of political figures who support this embarrassing bill are the ones who pay lip service to letting 16 year olds</p>

	<p>vote - time to make up your minds on what is an adult and when someone can begin to engage the state in a civic manner. You can't have it both ways. You will get the state sued in court and waste more tax payer money. Please focus your attention on solving the fentanyl crisis and the rampant car theft in this state instead of targeting younger citizens who enjoy their constitutional rights.</p>
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<p>Darrell Dinges Against themselves</p>	<p>Raising the age to purchase firearms to age 21, unfairly restricts the Second Amendment rights of all young adults due the bad behavior of a small portion. People, age 18 can join the military and benefit from experience with firearm use. Eighteen year olds should be allowed to hunt with their own firearm. Some Colorado residents between 18 and 21 may live on their own and have a need to provide protection for themselves and children they may have.</p>
<p>Adam Scarborough Against themselves</p>	<p>Good afternoon to the committee. I am writing today to voice my opposition to this bill of raising the firearm purchase age from 18 to 21. At the end of the Vietnam War an amendment was passed to our constitution that lowered the voting age to 18 the belief was is our young men and women our old enough to fight kill and die for our country then they should have the rights and responsibilities that come along with it predominantly voting. Today we still and trust our 18 year old men and women fight kill and die For our country whether it is in the military federally or was in the Colorado National Guard. Additionally we still in trust them to vote in our democratic republic system. The desire to raise the purchase age for a firearm as proposed by this bill to 21 is within the violation of the Second Amendment but also does a disservice to the 26th amendment. What we are telling these individuals is that we trust you enough to kill on our behalf but we do not trust you to protect your own life within your own home within your own community town city or state. If this bill is to be passed then additional legislation must follow suit. Any individual who wishes to</p>

	<p>join the Colorado National Guard will not be able to join until they are 21 because according to the state you do not trust these honorable Brave young men and women who wish to serve their country and serve the state of Colorado as guardsman with the tools they will use to protect the Constitution of the United States and the state of Colorado. Additionally this will allow in the future for the federal government to revisit the 26th amendment and possibly even eliminated from our constitution. If that happens, the state of Colorado, this bill and the names who sponosor this bill will be remembered in infamy as those who threatened the 26th amendment of the united states constitution.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Adam Scarborough -Sic Semper Tyrannis</p>
<p>Joy Davidson Against themselves</p>	<p>As I understand this bill, it raises the minimum age to purchase a gun to twenty-one.</p> <p>One, that is not constitutional, guys. Stop undermining our constitution to get what you want. If you think that is acceptable, you do not deserve the position you hold.</p> <p>Two, we allow young people to join the military at eighteen. We allow them to vote. We view them as full-fledged adult members of society, so treat them as such and do not support this bill. It is a complete slap in their face.</p> <p>It is time to remember that you are elected officials, elected to represent the citizens. You are not in your position to represent your party. You are not in your position to tow the party line. There are a lot of citizens of this state, including myself, that are responsible gun owners and you need to represent US. Stop treating us like second class citizens, because guns are not the problem. The criminals are the problem.</p> <p>Spending time / effort undermining the constitution and the constitutional freedoms of some of this state's citizens while NOT holding criminals accountable for their actions is unacceptable.</p> <p>With all due respect, I am watching!</p>
<p>Madison Grinnan Against themselves</p>	<p>Bill 23-169 would do almost nothing to prohibit gun violence in Colorado. It would do more harm then it would do good. As an outdoors man and hunter this bill would strip kids of learning proper gun safety and responsibility but delaying there access to firearms. We already have laws in place to help keep guns from being sold to minors in Colorado. This bill would hurt young hunters all around the state by prohibiting possession. Some of my greatest memories were made out in the field with a gun in my hand hunting with my dad and brother. We need to come together and find a way to keep guns away from criminals and not restrict access for law abiding citizens. Moving the age from 18-</p>

	21 would do nothing to help this. Under current law it is already a class 4 felony to knowingly sell fire arms to the underage.
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Testimony of Liddy Ballard, State Policy Manager
Support for Senate Bill 169
Before the Colorado Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee

March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Coleman, Vice Chair Sullivan, and distinguished members of the State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee,

Founded in 1974, Brady works across Congress, courts, and communities, uniting gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to take action, not sides, and end America's gun violence epidemic. Brady today carries the name of Jim Brady, who was shot and severely injured in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Jim and his wife, Sarah, led the fight to pass federal legislation requiring background checks for gun sales. Brady continues to uphold Jim and Sarah's legacy by uniting Americans from coast to coast, red and blue, young and old, liberal and conservative, to combat the epidemic of gun violence. **In furtherance of our goal to reduce firearm violence across Colorado, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to support the passage of Senate Bill 169.**

Support: SB23-169; Increasing Minimum Age to Purchase Firearms

Colorado knows all too well the risk of firearms in the hands of those under 21; both Columbine High School shooters were 18 years old, the Highlands Ranch shooter who injured 9 young people was 18 years old. And we have seen the same pattern across the country. The mass shooting at Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, New York,¹ and the subsequent slaughter of elementary school students and their teachers in a classroom in Uvalde, Texas just a week later, have once more shaken the conscience of our nation. In those two shootings alone, 31 people were murdered and another 20 were injured at the hands of two 18-year-olds who were legally armed with semi-automatic assault-style rifles.² Americans can no longer go to a movie theater, shop at a grocery market, pray in a house of worship, or study at school

¹ Nickeas, P., Tolan, C., et al., (May 2022). *How the 18-year-old suspect legally obtained guns before the Buffalo mass shooting*. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/17/us/buffalo-mass-shooting-guns-suspect/index.html>.

² Oxner, R., (May 2022). *Uvalde gunman legally bought AR rifles days before shooting, law enforcement says*. The Texas Tribune. <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/05/25/uvalde-shooter-bought-gun-legally/>

without the fear of being shot and killed. It is past time to strengthen Colorado's gun laws to help close current loopholes and keep our cities and streets safer.

Under federal law, only those 21 years of age or older are legally allowed to purchase handguns at licensed gun dealers.³ However, the restriction does not extend to other firearms including semi-automatic rifles, which are capable of more bodily damage and harm than their handgun counterparts. A typical AR-15 bullet leaves the barrel of the gun *three times* faster than a typical 9mm handgun bullet.⁴ When it enters a human body, the .223 caliber bullet is designed to fragment and tumble. The high velocity damages and kills tissue as it travels, causing catastrophic internal bleeding. As we have seen far too often, even a firearms novice can perpetrate a mass casualty incident with an assault-style weapon. These weapons are highly lethal and should be regulated as such, including restrictions on who is able to own them, to ensure that we are keeping Colorado communities safe.

Data shows that 18-to 20-year-olds are uniquely likely to engage in impulsive, emotional, and risky behavior.⁵ One in eight school shootings are perpetrated by shooters aged 18 to 20,⁶ and 18-to-20 year olds commit gun homicides at a rate four times higher than adults 21 and older.⁷ Neuroscientific and sociological research demonstrates that young adults under the age of 21 have less capacity to control impulsivity, make good decisions, and appreciate the consequences of their actions than older individuals. In fact, significant societal changes over the past half-century support scientists' conclusion that "age 21 or 22 would be closer to the 'biological' age of maturity," providing further evidence for why adolescents under the age of 21 should not be permitted to legally purchase such firearms unless in very specific circumstances.⁸ There are numerous examples of products and behaviors that we limit to those over the age of 21 in recognition of this research - federal limitations on purchase and consumption of alcohol, purchase and use of marijuana products in all states that have legalized marijuana thus far,⁹ federal minimum age for sale of tobacco products, and even things like individual credit card applicants.¹⁰

³ 18 U.S. Code § 922(b)(1).

⁴ Sher, H. (February 2018). *What I saw treating the victims from parkland should change the debate on guns*. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/02/what-i-saw-treating-the-victims-from-parkland-should-change-the-debate-on-guns/553937/>

⁵ Ortiz, A. *Cruel and unusual punishment: The juvenile death penalty: adolescence, brain development and legal culpability*. Office of Justice Programs. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/cruel-and-unusual-punishment-juvenile-death-penalty-adolescence>

⁶ Brown, J., Goodin, A. *Mass casualty shooting venues, types of firearms, and age of perpetrators in the united states, 1982–2018*. American Journal of Public Health, 108(10):1385-1387, <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2018.304584>.

⁷ (January 2022). *How can we prevent gun violence in american schools?* Everytown Research & Policy. <https://everytownresearch.org/report/how-can-we-prevent-gun-violence-in-schools/>.

⁸ American Bar Association, (2004). *Cruel and unusual punishment: The juvenile death penalty: Adolescence, brain development and legal culpability*, Juvenile Justice Center. <https://capitalpunishmentincontext.org/files/resources/juveniles/adolescencecopy.pdf>

⁹ Hansen, C., Alas, H. et al., (April 2022). *Where is marijuana legal? AgGuide to marijuana legalization.* U.S. News. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/where-is-marijuana-legal-a-guide-to-marijuana-legalization>.

¹⁰ *Federal Tobacco 21: The Law of Land*. Tobacco 21.

https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/HSC/CHS/Tobacco/Federal_Tobacco_21_FAQ-PTAF-January_2020.pdf

SB 23-169 would strengthen Colorado law, which currently allows a person who is 18 years of age or older to purchase a firearm, by increasing the age requirement to 21 years of age or older to purchase or possess any firearm. The bill provides reasonable exemptions for certain activities, like hunting and other sporting or training events. There is precedent for a law of this nature. Eight other states—Florida, Washington, Vermont, California, Delaware, New York, Illinois and Hawaii—have increased the minimum purchase age for long guns to 21.¹¹ These laws have been shown to prevent firearms suicide attempts from teenagers who frequently lack impulse control; one study found that laws of this nature resulted in a 9 percent decline in firearms suicide rates among 18-20 year olds.¹²

There is strong social science evidence to suggest that limiting purchase and possession of firearms to individuals over the age of 21 will positively impact rates of homicides and suicides among teenagers, who are at high risk for impulsive behavior and whose brains have not yet full developed. SB23-169 presents commonsense policy we can adopt to prevent further instances of both mass violence and acts of everyday gun violence perpetrated by adolescents in our state.

Conclusion

Coloradans are reeling from numerous acts of gun violence in the last year, and these bills provide an opportunity to address the epidemic residents are facing. ***For the reasons described above, Brady urges the committee to support the passage of Senate Bill 169.***

Sincerely,
Liddy Ballard

¹¹ Collier, K., Schwartz, J., (May 2022). *Why 18-year-olds can buy Ar-15s in texas but not handguns*. The Texas Tribune. <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/05/26/gun-buying-age-texas-handguns-rifles-ualde/>.

¹² Webster, D., et. al., (August 2004). *Association between youth-focused firearm laws and youth suicides*. JAMA, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/199194>.

Testimony as Submitted in support of SB23-169: Increasing Minimum Age to Purchase Firearms by Hunter Nelson, Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children’s Campaign

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee

Mar. 8, 2023, Upon Adjournment

Old Supreme Court

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee,

My name is Hunter Nelson and I am a Policy Analyst at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. Together with our partner organizations and communities across the state, we advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policy that improves child and family well-being. We fight for a world in which, without exception, public policies and investments remove barriers for most impacted children and families and improve well-being for every child and every family. The Children’s Campaign is in strong support of SB23-169: Increasing Minimum Age to Purchase Firearms.

The Children’s Campaign believes that policy solutions addressing access to guns among Colorado youth are an essential part of a comprehensive approach to suicide and violence prevention.

We are deeply concerned about suicide rates among Colorado’s young people. The number of Colorado kids and teens who have died by suicide more than doubled between 2010 and 2022, and nearly one in five Colorado youth reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year as of 2019, according to the Children’s Campaign’s 2022 Kids Count report. There are disproportionately higher rates among students who are American Indian or Alaskan Native, multiracial, female or transgender.¹ Firearms are involved in about half of suicides in our state, according to data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.²

Impulse regulation and emotional control continue to develop into a person’s mid-20s, putting adolescents and young adults under the age of 21 at an elevated risk of attempting suicide.³ Having access to firearms increases the chances of a youth attempting or dying by suicide by firearm. Raising the minimum age for purchasing and possessing firearms to 21 has been shown to mitigate this issue. According to RAND’s Gun Policy in America initiative, there is evidence that minimum age requirements for purchasing and possessing firearms can reduce firearm suicides among young people.⁴ This promising evidence should not be ignored. Setting minimum age requirements for purchasing and possessing firearms also has the potential to reduce accidental deaths and homicides among children.⁵

Colorado has an obligation to protect its youth, and raising the minimum purchasing age of firearms to 21 years of age from 18 years of age has the potential to save young people’s lives. **Please vote yes on SB23-169.**

¹ Ibid.

² [Firearm Deaths Fact Sheet 2016-2021 FINAL.pdf \(colorado.gov\)](#)

³ [Minimum Age | Giffords](#)

⁴ [Effects of Minimum Age Requirements on Suicide | RAND](#)

⁵ [Farley_Gun Safety Brief_5.2.2019 REV.pdf \(cuanschutz.edu\)](#)

Thank you,

Hunter Nelson

Hunter Nelson

Policy Analyst

Hunter@coloradokids.org

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Mitkowski, I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself. I am writing today in support of SB 23-169. I am a healthcare worker in family practice, this means I see patients of all ages. I am very familiar with the increasing depression, anxiety and suicide among our youth. Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Colorado. An average of 69 children and teens die by guns every year, among that 54% are suicides (www.everystat.org). We know that kids and teenagers make impulsive decisions, the brains are still developing and don't possess the full scope of logical thinking. Raising the age from 18 to 21 to purchase a firearm will help keep guns out of the hands of teenagers with impulsive thought patterns. I understand this won't prevent all suicides, it won't prevent all gun related deaths in this age group but if it saves even one child then it's a worthwhile law. If we keep one 16 year who is having a rough time from purchasing a handgun and therefore allow that child time to get help then all of this is worth it. I appreciate your time in reading this today.

Jennifer Mitkowski

Resident Highlands Ranch, HD 43

Public Law 109–92
109th Congress

An Act

To prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

Oct. 26, 2005
[S. 397]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act”.

Protection of
Lawful
Commerce in
Arms Act.
15 USC 7901
note.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

15 USC 7901.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

(2) The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the rights of individuals, including those who are not members of a militia or engaged in military service or training, to keep and bear arms.

(3) Lawsuits have been commenced against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms that operate as designed and intended, which seek money damages and other relief for the harm caused by the misuse of firearms by third parties, including criminals.

(4) The manufacture, importation, possession, sale, and use of firearms and ammunition in the United States are heavily regulated by Federal, State, and local laws. Such Federal laws include the Gun Control Act of 1968, the National Firearms Act, and the Arms Export Control Act.

(5) Businesses in the United States that are engaged in interstate and foreign commerce through the lawful design, manufacture, marketing, distribution, importation, or sale to the public of firearms or ammunition products that have been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce are not, and should not, be liable for the harm caused by those who criminally or unlawfully misuse firearm products or ammunition products that function as designed and intended.

(6) The possibility of imposing liability on an entire industry for harm that is solely caused by others is an abuse of the legal system, erodes public confidence in our Nation’s laws, threatens the diminution of a basic constitutional right and civil liberty, invites the disassembly and destabilization of other industries and economic sectors lawfully competing

in the free enterprise system of the United States, and constitutes an unreasonable burden on interstate and foreign commerce of the United States.

(7) The liability actions commenced or contemplated by the Federal Government, States, municipalities, and private interest groups and others are based on theories without foundation in hundreds of years of the common law and jurisprudence of the United States and do not represent a bona fide expansion of the common law. The possible sustaining of these actions by a maverick judicial officer or petit jury would expand civil liability in a manner never contemplated by the framers of the Constitution, by Congress, or by the legislatures of the several States. Such an expansion of liability would constitute a deprivation of the rights, privileges, and immunities guaranteed to a citizen of the United States under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

(8) The liability actions commenced or contemplated by the Federal Government, States, municipalities, private interest groups and others attempt to use the judicial branch to circumvent the Legislative branch of government to regulate interstate and foreign commerce through judgments and judicial decrees thereby threatening the Separation of Powers doctrine and weakening and undermining important principles of federalism, State sovereignty and comity between the sister States.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To prohibit causes of action against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms or ammunition products, and their trade associations, for the harm solely caused by the criminal or unlawful misuse of firearm products or ammunition products by others when the product functioned as designed and intended.

(2) To preserve a citizen's access to a supply of firearms and ammunition for all lawful purposes, including hunting, self-defense, collecting, and competitive or recreational shooting.

(3) To guarantee a citizen's rights, privileges, and immunities, as applied to the States, under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, pursuant to section 5 of that Amendment.

(4) To prevent the use of such lawsuits to impose unreasonable burdens on interstate and foreign commerce.

(5) To protect the right, under the First Amendment to the Constitution, of manufacturers, distributors, dealers, and importers of firearms or ammunition products, and trade associations, to speak freely, to assemble peaceably, and to petition the Government for a redress of their grievances.

(6) To preserve and protect the Separation of Powers doctrine and important principles of federalism, State sovereignty and comity between sister States.

(7) To exercise congressional power under article IV, section 1 (the Full Faith and Credit Clause) of the United States Constitution.

15 USC 7902.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON BRINGING OF QUALIFIED CIVIL LIABILITY ACTIONS IN FEDERAL OR STATE COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A qualified civil liability action may not be brought in any Federal or State court.

(b) **DISMISSAL OF PENDING ACTIONS.**—A qualified civil liability action that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act shall be immediately dismissed by the court in which the action was brought or is currently pending.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

15 USC 7903.

In this Act:

(1) **ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS.**—The term “engaged in the business” has the meaning given that term in section 921(a)(21) of title 18, United States Code, and, as applied to a seller of ammunition, means a person who devotes time, attention, and labor to the sale of ammunition as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through the sale or distribution of ammunition.

(2) **MANUFACTURER.**—The term “manufacturer” means, with respect to a qualified product, a person who is engaged in the business of manufacturing the product in interstate or foreign commerce and who is licensed to engage in business as such a manufacturer under chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code.

(3) **PERSON.**—The term “person” means any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, or any other entity, including any governmental entity.

(4) **QUALIFIED PRODUCT.**—The term “qualified product” means a firearm (as defined in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 921(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code), including any antique firearm (as defined in section 921(a)(16) of such title), or ammunition (as defined in section 921(a)(17)(A) of such title), or a component part of a firearm or ammunition, that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

(5) **QUALIFIED CIVIL LIABILITY ACTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “qualified civil liability action” means a civil action or proceeding or an administrative proceeding brought by any person against a manufacturer or seller of a qualified product, or a trade association, for damages, punitive damages, injunctive or declaratory relief, abatement, restitution, fines, or penalties, or other relief, resulting from the criminal or unlawful misuse of a qualified product by the person or a third party, but shall not include—

(i) an action brought against a transferor convicted under section 924(h) of title 18, United States Code, or a comparable or identical State felony law, by a party directly harmed by the conduct of which the transferee is so convicted;

(ii) an action brought against a seller for negligent entrustment or negligence per se;

(iii) an action in which a manufacturer or seller of a qualified product knowingly violated a State or Federal statute applicable to the sale or marketing of the product, and the violation was a proximate cause of the harm for which relief is sought, including—

(I) any case in which the manufacturer or seller knowingly made any false entry in, or failed to make appropriate entry in, any record required

to be kept under Federal or State law with respect to the qualified product, or aided, abetted, or conspired with any person in making any false or fictitious oral or written statement with respect to any fact material to the lawfulness of the sale or other disposition of a qualified product; or

(II) any case in which the manufacturer or seller aided, abetted, or conspired with any other person to sell or otherwise dispose of a qualified product, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe, that the actual buyer of the qualified product was prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm or ammunition under subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code;

(iv) an action for breach of contract or warranty in connection with the purchase of the product;

(v) an action for death, physical injuries or property damage resulting directly from a defect in design or manufacture of the product, when used as intended or in a reasonably foreseeable manner, except that where the discharge of the product was caused by a volitional act that constituted a criminal offense, then such act shall be considered the sole proximate cause of any resulting death, personal injuries or property damage; or

(vi) an action or proceeding commenced by the Attorney General to enforce the provisions of chapter 44 of title 18 or chapter 53 of title 26, United States Code.

(B) **NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT.**—As used in subparagraph (A)(ii), the term “negligent entrustment” means the supplying of a qualified product by a seller for use by another person when the seller knows, or reasonably should know, the person to whom the product is supplied is likely to, and does, use the product in a manner involving unreasonable risk of physical injury to the person or others.

(C) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The exceptions enumerated under clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) shall be construed so as not to be in conflict, and no provision of this Act shall be construed to create a public or private cause of action or remedy.

(D) **MINOR CHILD EXCEPTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the right of a person under 17 years of age to recover damages authorized under Federal or State law in a civil action that meets 1 of the requirements under clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A).

(6) **SELLER.**—The term “seller” means, with respect to a qualified product—

(A) an importer (as defined in section 921(a)(9) of title 18, United States Code) who is engaged in the business as such an importer in interstate or foreign commerce and who is licensed to engage in business as such an importer under chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code;

(B) a dealer (as defined in section 921(a)(11) of title 18, United States Code) who is engaged in the business as such a dealer in interstate or foreign commerce and

who is licensed to engage in business as such a dealer under chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code; or

(C) a person engaged in the business of selling ammunition (as defined in section 921(a)(17)(A) of title 18, United States Code) in interstate or foreign commerce at the wholesale or retail level.

(7) STATE.—The term “State” includes each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States, and any political subdivision of any such place.

(8) TRADE ASSOCIATION.—The term “trade association” means—

(A) any corporation, unincorporated association, federation, business league, professional or business organization not organized or operated for profit and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual;

(B) that is an organization described in section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; and

(C) 2 or more members of which are manufacturers or sellers of a qualified product.

(9) UNLAWFUL MISUSE.—The term “unlawful misuse” means conduct that violates a statute, ordinance, or regulation as it relates to the use of a qualified product.

SEC. 5. CHILD SAFETY LOCKS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Child Safety Lock Act of 2005”.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to promote the safe storage and use of handguns by consumers;

(2) to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to or use of a handgun, including children who may not be in possession of a handgun; and

(3) to avoid hindering industry from supplying firearms to law abiding citizens for all lawful purposes, including hunting, self-defense, collecting, and competitive or recreational shooting.

(c) FIREARMS SAFETY.—

(1) MANDATORY TRANSFER OF SECURE GUN STORAGE OR SAFETY DEVICE.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“(z) SECURE GUN STORAGE OR SAFETY DEVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to sell, deliver, or transfer any handgun to any person other than any person licensed under this chapter, unless the transferee is provided with a secure gun storage or safety device (as defined in section 921(a)(34)) for that handgun.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

“(A)(i) the manufacture for, transfer to, or possession by, the United States, a department or agency of the United

Child Safety
Lock Act of 2005.
18 USC 921 note.

18 USC 922 note.

States, a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, of a handgun; or

“(ii) the transfer to, or possession by, a law enforcement officer employed by an entity referred to in clause (i) of a handgun for law enforcement purposes (whether on or off duty); or

“(B) the transfer to, or possession by, a rail police officer employed by a rail carrier and certified or commissioned as a police officer under the laws of a State of a handgun for purposes of law enforcement (whether on or off duty);

“(C) the transfer to any person of a handgun listed as a curio or relic by the Secretary pursuant to section 921(a)(13); or

“(D) the transfer to any person of a handgun for which a secure gun storage or safety device is temporarily unavailable for the reasons described in the exceptions stated in section 923(e), if the licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer delivers to the transferee within 10 calendar days from the date of the delivery of the handgun to the transferee a secure gun storage or safety device for the handgun.

“(3) LIABILITY FOR USE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who has lawful possession and control of a handgun, and who uses a secure gun storage or safety device with the handgun, shall be entitled to immunity from a qualified civil liability action.

“(B) PROSPECTIVE ACTIONS.—A qualified civil liability action may not be brought in any Federal or State court.

“(C) DEFINED TERM.—As used in this paragraph, the term ‘qualified civil liability action’—

“(i) means a civil action brought by any person against a person described in subparagraph (A) for damages resulting from the criminal or unlawful misuse of the handgun by a third party, if—

“(I) the handgun was accessed by another person who did not have the permission or authorization of the person having lawful possession and control of the handgun to have access to it; and

“(II) at the time access was gained by the person not so authorized, the handgun had been made inoperable by use of a secure gun storage or safety device; and

“(ii) shall not include an action brought against the person having lawful possession and control of the handgun for negligent entrustment or negligence per se.”.

(2) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “or (f)” and inserting “(f), or (p)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) PENALTIES RELATING TO SECURE GUN STORAGE OR SAFETY DEVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE; CIVIL PENALTIES.—With respect to each violation of section 922(z)(1) by a licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer, the Secretary may, after notice and opportunity for hearing—

“(i) suspend for not more than 6 months, or revoke, the license issued to the licensee under this chapter that was used to conduct the firearms transfer; or

“(ii) subject the licensee to a civil penalty in an amount equal to not more than \$2,500.

“(B) REVIEW.—An action of the Secretary under this paragraph may be reviewed only as provided under section 923(f).

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES.—The suspension or revocation of a license or the imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (1) shall not preclude any administrative remedy that is otherwise available to the Secretary.”.

(3) LIABILITY; EVIDENCE.—

18 USC 922 note.

(A) LIABILITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(i) create a cause of action against any Federal firearms licensee or any other person for any civil liability; or

(ii) establish any standard of care.

(B) EVIDENCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, evidence regarding compliance or noncompliance with the amendments made by this section shall not be admissible as evidence in any proceeding of any court, agency, board, or other entity, except with respect to an action relating to section 922(z) of title 18, United States Code, as added by this subsection.

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to bar a governmental action to impose a penalty under section 924(p) of title 18, United States Code, for a failure to comply with section 922(z) of that title.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

18 USC 922 note.

SEC. 6. ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION.

(a) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—Section 922(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8) and inserting the following:

“(7) for any person to manufacture or import armor piercing ammunition, unless—

“(A) the manufacture of such ammunition is for the use of the United States, any department or agency of the United States, any State, or any department, agency, or political subdivision of a State;

“(B) the manufacture of such ammunition is for the purpose of exportation; or

“(C) the manufacture or importation of such ammunition is for the purpose of testing or experimentation and has been authorized by the Attorney General;

“(8) for any manufacturer or importer to sell or deliver armor piercing ammunition, unless such sale or delivery—

“(A) is for the use of the United States, any department or agency of the United States, any State, or any department, agency, or political subdivision of a State;

“(B) is for the purpose of exportation; or

“(C) is for the purpose of testing or experimentation and has been authorized by the Attorney General;”.

(b) PENALTIES.—Section 924(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) Except to the extent that a greater minimum sentence is otherwise provided under this subsection, or by any other provision of law, any person who, during and in relation to any crime of violence or drug trafficking crime (including a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime that provides for an enhanced punishment if committed by the use of a deadly or dangerous weapon or device) for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries armor piercing ammunition, or who, in furtherance of any such crime, possesses armor piercing ammunition, shall, in addition to the punishment provided for such crime of violence or drug trafficking crime or conviction under this section—

“(A) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 15 years; and

“(B) if death results from the use of such ammunition—

“(i) if the killing is murder (as defined in section 1111), be punished by death or sentenced to a term of imprisonment for any term of years or for life; and

“(ii) if the killing is manslaughter (as defined in section 1112), be punished as provided in section 1112.”.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Attorney General shall conduct a study to determine whether a uniform standard for the testing of projectiles against Body Armor is feasible.

(2) ISSUES TO BE STUDIED.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) variations in performance that are related to the length of the barrel of the handgun or center-fire rifle from which the projectile is fired; and

(B) the amount of powder used to propel the projectile.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under this subsection to—

(A) the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(B) the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

Approved October 26, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 397:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 151 (2005):

July 27-29, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 20, considered and passed House.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 41 (2005):

Oct. 26, Presidential statement.



**Gun Control Research- Professor Donald Kates and Professor Gary Mauser
Criminals Don't Obey the Laws**

“The people you need to control are not going to obey the gun control laws...and the people you don't need to control, those are the ones who obey. So what you get is...either nothing, or you get worse results with gun control.

Professor Donald B. Kates is 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 as a professor at Stanford Law School. His co-author, Professor Gary Mauser, served as a Canadian university professor.

The Kates- Mauser study looked at 18 European nations with varying levels of gun ownership. They concluded:

“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.”

Lewin, Marshall, “Would Banning Firearms Reduce Murder and Suicide?” *America's 1st Freedom*, National Rifle Association, Fairfax, Va., August 2007, Page 32.

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

To members of this committee,

As a hunter, voter, and a father, I urge you to vote no on this proposed bill. This bill violates the 2nd amendment rights lined out in the constitution of the United States. Additionally, as hunter and father, this bill would revoke the right of sharing my experiences of hunting and outdoorsmanship with my daughter in the coming years. This past year I was fortunate to begin to connect with my daughter in a new setting that opens up many opportunities for growth and appreciation of a past time and nature. If this bill were to pass, the opportunity of sharing hunting experiences with my daughter would cease to exist. She would no longer be permitted to partake in the hunting tradition that is a part of my family and life during her most curious and impactful years of her life. Colorado is known for its public lands and the use of them. Not allowing a properly hunters/gun safety educated minor to possess a firearm under the supervision of an adult with experience and a gun safety education is unconstitutional, depriving of a child's youth, and detrimental to family bonds. A passing of this bill would deprive my family of parent/child connections and valuable life lessons that go far beyond that of hunting but can only be experienced through such an activity.

In closing, I once again urge you to vote no on this proposed bill as a committee. Please consider the impacts that this WILL have on families and the missed connections between parents and their children.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle J. Neith", written in a cursive style.

Kyle J. Neith

Research- Mass Murders and Spree Killings not Unique to U.S.

02-03-2017

The Crime Prevention Research Center updated their list of mass murders and spree killings world-wide on 01-30-2017. (Some additional recent incidents are included here.)

After the 2015 Charleston Massacre, President Obama referred to such atrocities as a particularly American problem. This does not appear to be the case.

As the mosque attack in Quebec, Canada on 01-29-2017 should remind us, criminal and terrorist violence is not restricted to this country. Nor are these horrible crimes always committed with firearms. (Examples do not include African, or Asian cases.)

One salient fact is that the most dastardly US and foreign crimes are often committed in so-called "gun-free" zones or against soft targets in jurisdictions where the local population has been largely disarmed by the government that was supposed to protect them.

Some examples of foreign mass murders/spree killings:

04-26-2002, Erfurt, Germany. Recent graduate of Gutenberg Gymnasium killed 18 people.

03-11-2009, Winnenden, Germany. Winnenden School shooting left 15 dead.

07-22-2011, Utoya, Norway. Lone gunman killed 67 people and wounded 110 others. Many victims were trapped on an island, where no legal guns were allowed.

01-07-2015, 01-08-2015, Paris, France. Charlie Hebdo and related attacks killed 17, including 2 unarmed French police officers.

11-14-2015 Paris, France. Coordinated gun and suicide bombing attacks. 130 killed. 89 killed in the Bataclan Theatre. ISIS claimed responsibility.

07-14-2016, Nice, France. Tunisian resident of France killed 86 people by driving a hijacked cargo truck into a crowd.

07-22-2016, Munich, Germany. A gunman killed 9 in a shopping mall. A witness shouted at the gunman from a balcony, but could not do more, because he was unarmed.

12-19-2016, Berlin, Germany. A truck attack in a Christmas market killed 12 and injured 56.

01-01-2017, Istanbul, Turkey. Reina nightclub attack killed 39 and wounded 68. ISIS claimed responsibility.

01-29-2017, Quebec City, Canada. A Right-Wing extremist killed 6 and wounded 17 in an attack on a mosque during a prayer service.

<http://crimeresearch.org/2017/01/with-39-killed-in-tunisia-attack-the-top-three-mass-public-shootings-are-outside-the-united-states/>

Rational Perspectives on Firearms

Ten Questions and Answers Based on
Facts, Data, Evidence, History, Common
Sense and Logic, not Feelings

By Dr Michael Gaeta
Boulder, Colorado

v.1 February 8, 2023

1

Question #1:

Does changing a state to
Constitutional Carry (no permit
needed to carry) increase or
decrease murder rates per capita?

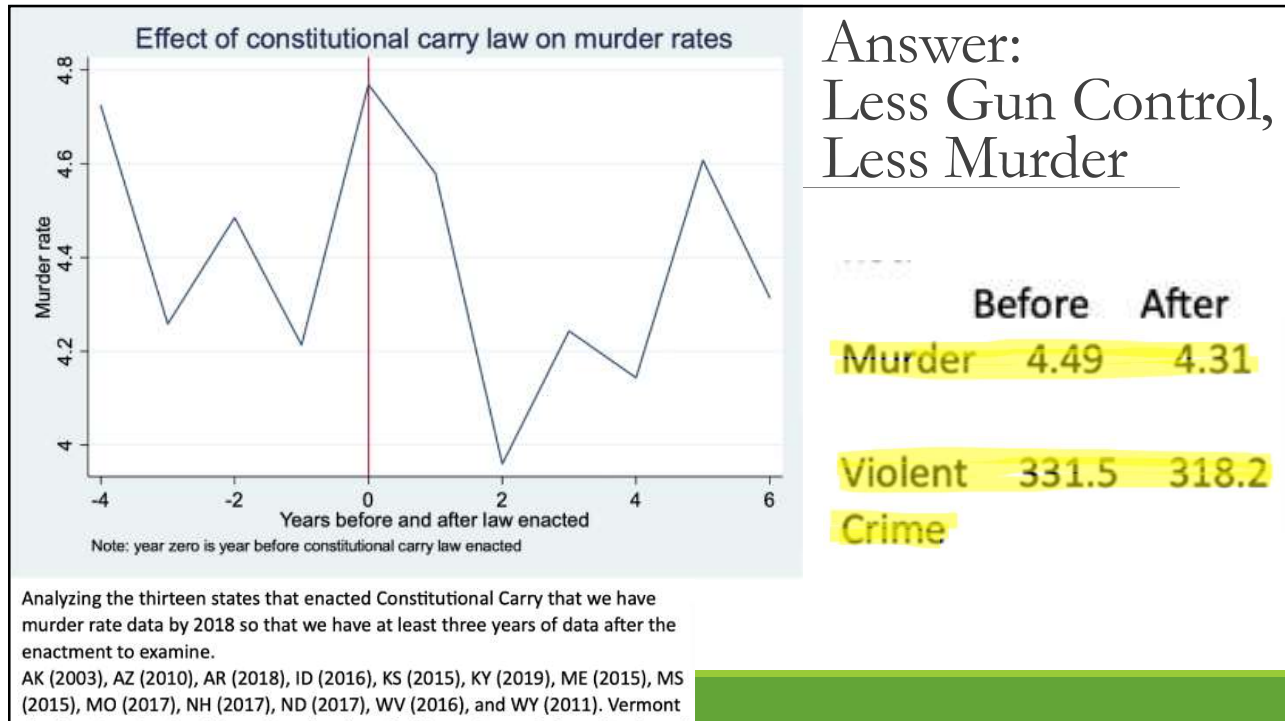
2

The screenshot shows the CDC WONDER website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for FAQs, Help, Contact Us, and WONDER Search. Below the navigation bar, there is a secondary search bar and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. The main content area features the article title "CDC Data Shows Constitutional Carry States Have Fewer Total and Gun-Related Homicides" by Konstadinos Moros, dated October 4, 2022, with 78 comments. The article text states: "The average overall homicide rate among the sixteen constitutional carry states in 2020 was 6.9 per 100,000, beating the national average of 7.5 per 100,000. Perhaps more surprisingly, constitutional carry states also saw a lower gun-related homicide rate: 5.3 per 100,000, compared to the national figure of 5.9 per 100,000."

3

The slide is titled "Changes in Crime and Killings of Police After Constitutional Carry Adopted" and is presented by the Crime Prevention Research Center. The center is described as being dedicated to conducting academic quality research on the relationship between laws regulating the ownership or use of guns, crime, and public safety. The slide is dated January 23, 2022, and is categorized as "Constitutional Carry, Original Research". Information is provided by Professor Carl Moody, who is a professor of economics at the College of William & Mary and the Research Director for the Crime Prevention Research Center. A portrait of Professor Carl Moody is included. His biography states: "Dr Carlisle E. Moody (1943-) is an American economist, criminologist, and professor of economics at the College of William & Mary. B.A. Economics, Colby College M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1970), Economics, University of Connecticut". The slide concludes with the text: "Data from this study are presented on the following slides".

4

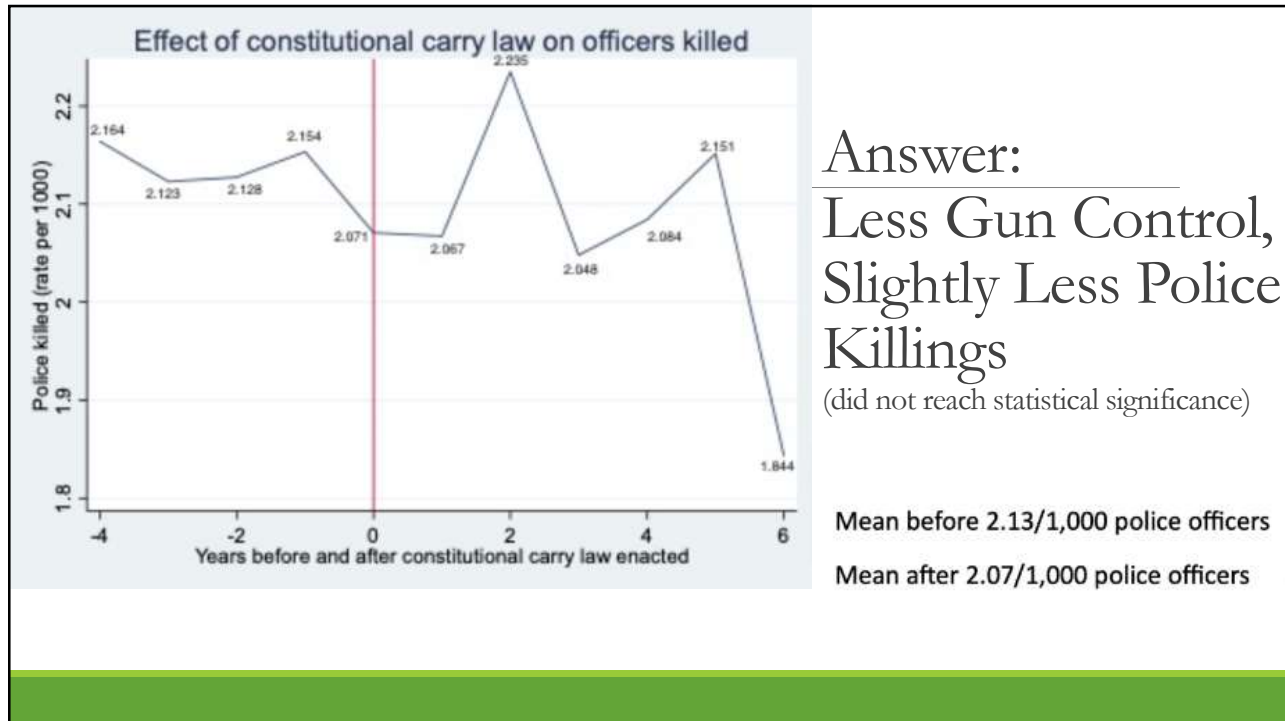


5

Question #2:

Does changing a state to Constitutional Carry increase or decrease the number of police officers killed per capita?

6

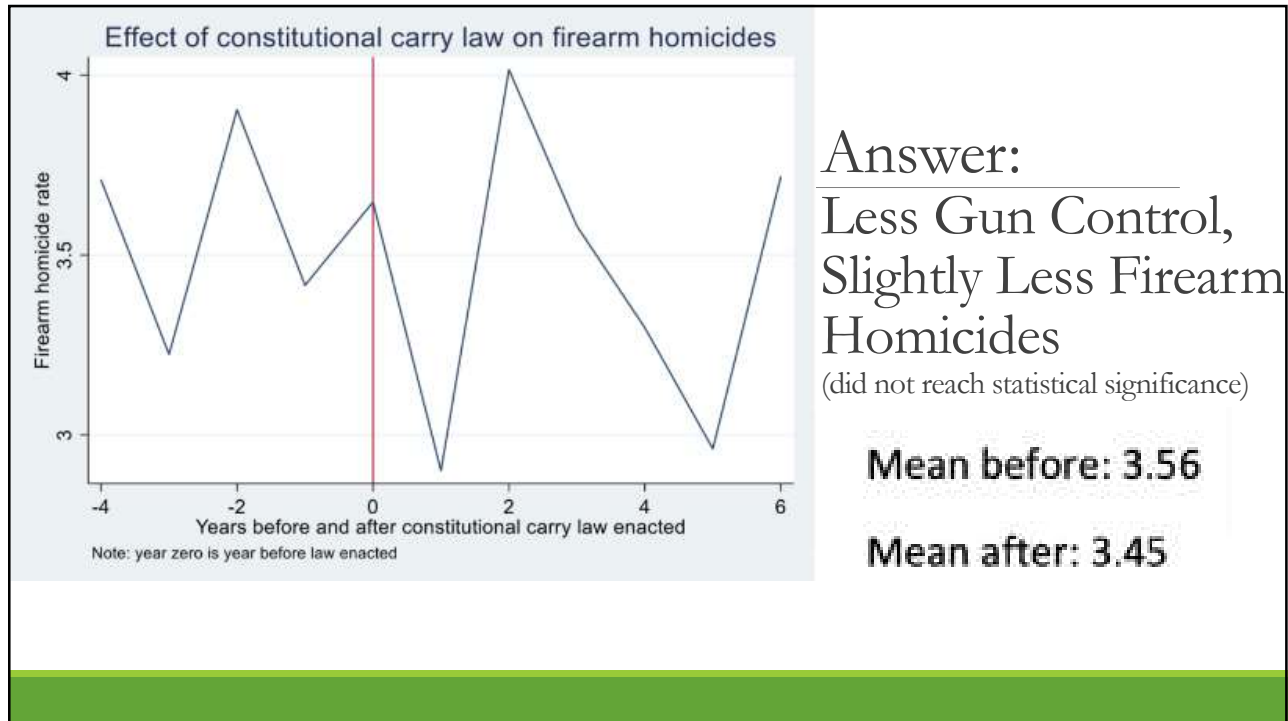


7

Question #3:

Does changing a state to Constitutional Carry increase or decrease the number of firearm homicides per capita?

8



9

Question #4:

Do gun-free zones prevent mass shootings?

Fact: twice as many deaths per year per capita from lightning strikes than mass shootings

10



11

Relevant Statistics:

- # of US school (gun-free zones) shootings since 1970: 2,032, half (948) since 2013
- # of mass shootings at police stations: 0
- # of mass shootings at gun shows: 0
- # of mass shootings at shooting ranges: 0
- # of shootings at gun stores: 1 (not a mass shooting: only 1 employee killed)

Theme: Good guys with guns deter or prevent gun violence

12

Why are school shootings a relatively recent thing?

Why were there no school shootings in the 1950s?

That's an interesting thing, since where guns in the 1950s were much more readily available, even in the schools. There were school rifle clubs. People brought guns to school. - Larry Correia, CPA, Author

So the issue, as always, has nothing to do with access to guns of any type. The issue is more difficult and complex, which has to do with a decline in moral character, especially in younger people, and mental illness, including a massive increase in psychotropic prescription drugs.

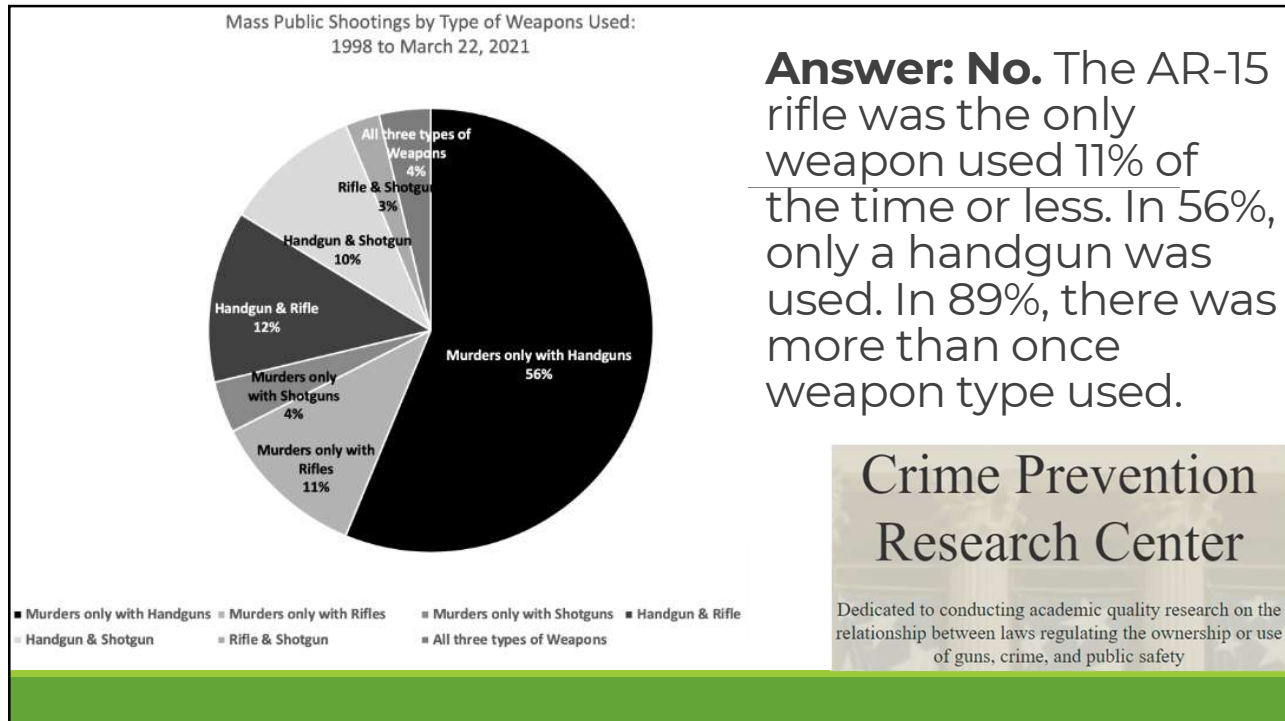
13

Question #5:

Is the AR-15 the weapon of choice for mass public shooters?

As of 2020, there were about 20 million AR-15-style weapons in the country, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade association.

14



15

Question #6:

Was President Biden lying again when he stated, on May 24, 2022, “When we passed the assault weapons ban, mass shootings went down. When the law expired, mass shootings tripled.”

16

Answer:

Yes, another complete fabrication / disinformation.

Fact: There was no drop in the number of attacks with assault weapons during the 1994 to 2004 ban, perhaps because criminals are not affected by gun control measures.

Fact: If Biden's claim is correct, we should see a drop in the percent of attacks with assault weapons during the federal ban period and then an increase in the post-ban period, but the exact opposite is true.

Fact: eliminating the assault weapon ban had no effect on the number of attacks with assault weapons, but increased attacks that used other types of weapons.

Details at crimeresearch.org/2022/05/biden-on-assault-weapons

17

Question #7:

Would an “assault weapons” ban reduce gun homicide?

18

Answer: No.



RESEARCH REPORT

Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994

Jeffrey A. Roth, Christopher S. Koper, William Adams, John E. Marcotte, Doug Wissoker

March 13, 1997

1997 study commissioned and funded by the US Department of Justice

“At best, the assault weapons ban can have only a limited effect on total gun murders, because the banned weapons and magazines were never involved in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders.”

19

Q. What About the Follow-Up 2004 DOJ Study?

A. Same conclusion: “AWs [assault weapons] and LCMs [large capacity magazines] were used in only a minority of gun crimes prior to the 1994 federal ban,” “relatively few attacks involve more than 10 shots fired,” and “the ban’s effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement.”

Fact: Presented with overwhelming evidence of the 1994 ban’s inefficacy, Congress chose not to renew the gun-control measure.

20

Question #8:

Do gun control measures keep guns out of the hands of criminals who use guns to commit crime and murder?

21

Answer: No.

Gun control measures only disarm law-abiding citizens that use guns not to shoot people, but to defend themselves, their families, homes and businesses from violent attack where someone's life is in danger.

Criminals, by definition, do not care if they obtain firearms legally, and are unaffected by gun control measures.

22

Hard Truths About Human Nature

Throwing millions of people in jail for illegal drugs did nothing to decrease these drugs – they just went underground. If people want drugs, they will find a way to get them, regardless of anti-drug laws.

If people want to commit violence on others, they will find a way to do it, with a gun, bomb or knife, regardless of anti-weapon laws. We have seen this all over the world, at all times and in all nations.

23

Another measure as nonsensical as banning the AR-15, the most popular firearm in the USA

Fact: 43,000 people were killed in traffic fatalities in 2021, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a 10% increase from 2020.

Most common type of car: Toyota

Solution: ban all Toyota vehicles

24

Question #9:

Do gun control measures
reduce crime?

25

Answer: No, they increase crime, a lot.

Legally-armed, law-abiding citizens **prevent** thousands of crimes per day, usually without a shot being fired.

The right to obtain a firearm legally is more important than the firearm itself, because guns effectively act as a **deterrent**.

Worst-case scenario: more gun control, so that only the bad guys have guns, and citizens can't defend themselves.

26

	Original language	English (US)
	Pages (from-to)	1-8
	Number of pages	8
	Journal	Journal of the American College of Surgeons
	Volume	228
	Issue number	1
State	Published - Jan 2019	

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State Level Firearm Concealed-Carry Legislation and Rates of Homicide and Other Violent Crime

Mark E. Hamill, Matthew C. Hernandez, Kent R. Bailey, Martin D. Zielinski, Miguel A. Matos, Henry J. Schiller
 Quantitative Health Sciences, Trauma, Critical Care and General Surgery

Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review

27

Abstract

Background: Over the last 30 years, public opinion and state level legislation regarding the concealed-carry of firearms have shifted dramatically. Previous studies of potential effects have yielded mixed results, making policy recommendations difficult. **We investigated whether liberalization of state level concealed-carry legislation was associated with a change in the rates of homicide or other violent crime.** Study Design: Data on violent crime and homicide rates were collected from the US Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over 30 years, from 1986 to 2015. State level concealed-carry legislation was evaluated each study year on a scale including “no carry,” “may issue,” “shall issue,” and “unrestricted carry.” Data were analyzed using general multiple linear regression models with the log event rate as the dependent variable, and an autoregressive correlation structure was assumed with generalized estimating equation (GEE) estimates for standard errors. Results: **During the study period, all states moved to adopt some form of concealed-carry legislation, with a trend toward less restrictive legislation. After adjusting for state and year, there was no significant association between shifts from restrictive to nonrestrictive carry legislation on violent crime and public health indicators. Adjusting further for poverty and unemployment did not significantly influence the results. Conclusions: This study demonstrated no statistically significant association between the liberalization of state level firearm carry legislation over the last 30 years and the rates of homicides or other violent crime.** Policy efforts aimed at injury prevention and the reduction of firearm-related violence should likely investigate other targets for potential intervention.

28

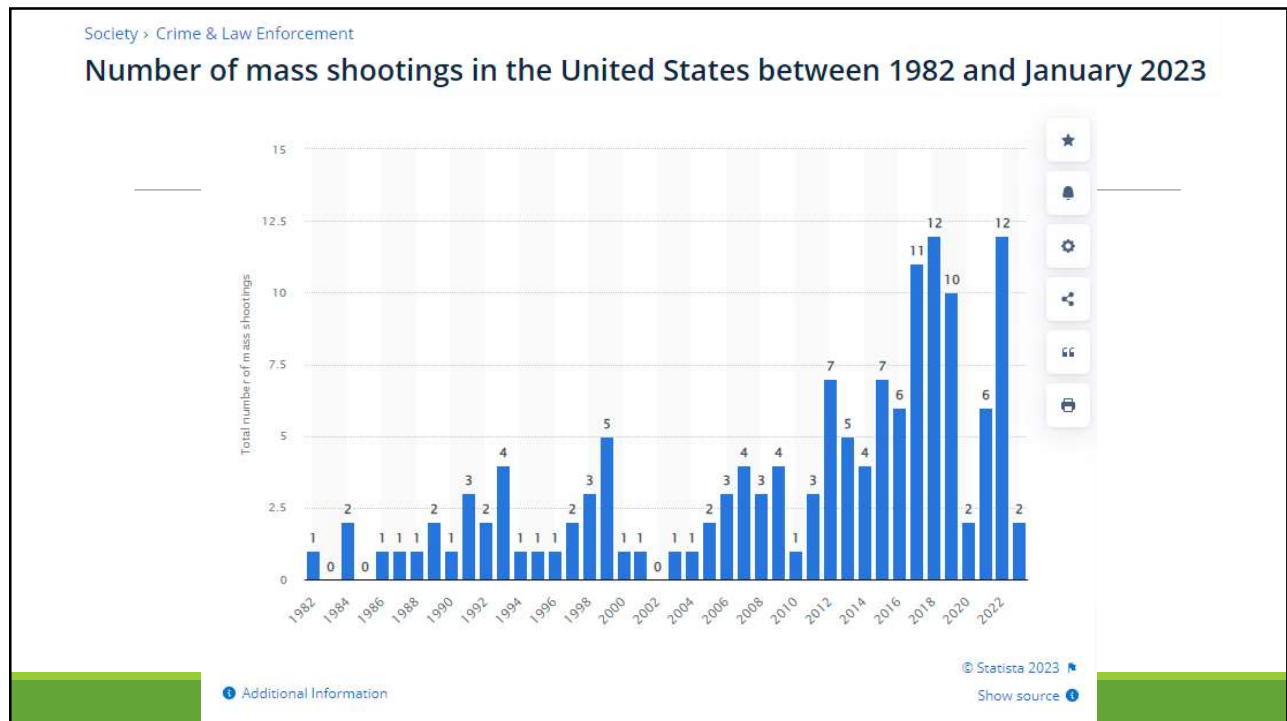
Guns are not perfect, but they help a lot, in the hands of law-abiding, responsible citizens.

Guns are not perfect. They aren't going to stop these events from happening. A fire extinguisher doesn't stop fires from happening, either; it just helps you deal with the damage faster than waiting for the fire department.

It's the same thing with applying CPR or doing first aid. It's not as good as a trauma surgeon. It's not going to cure the problem, but it can save lives.

Concealed carry is no different. It's all about how long it takes for us to get a response there. And if that response comes from us, we're better off. If that response comes from outside (law enforcement), we have to wait for it. It's really simple. It's just simple math. - Larry Correia, CPA, Author

29



30

Question #10:

Since gun control measures have never actually helped, why are they so popular with a loud minority of Americans?

31

Answers:

1. Gun control is a simplistic solution to a complex problem. Gun violence has increased over recent decades, while legal access to firearms has decreased in high-crime areas. So the problem is not and never was guns. It's people, and people are complex. Banning guns is simple, though ineffective.

2. It feels good, even though it doesn't actually DO any good. We see tragic mass shootings, and want to "do something." And rather than do the hard work of addressing root causes - mental illness, moral education, making sure children have fathers in their lives, etc., - it's much easier to blame an implement, an inanimate object, and reduce access to it, so you can feel good.

32

Practical Solutions

33

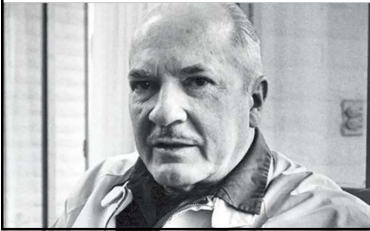
Solutions That Would Actually Help (unlike more gun control or bans)

1. Actually prosecute criminals – tough on crime policies
2. Education about safe gun handling, carrying, storage
3. Expand mental health and suicide (61% of all gun deaths) prevention programs
4. Help fathers be part of their son's lives in inner cities
5. Constitutional carry in all 50 states (currently 25); end gun-free zones
6. Arm school staff (or pretend that you did with a sign)
7. Publicly funded firearms training for citizens

34

“An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good
when one may have to back up his acts with his life.”

— Robert A. Heinlein, *Beyond This Horizon*



My name is Israel Baryeshua
I represent myself, the people
Therefore, Colorado.

I'm "*sure*" your intention is pure of heart, you want the prevention of gun violence that is perpetuated by a younger population of adults. You likely *believe* that, "if we can just increase the age to purchase a firearm, they *won't* commit such heinous acts, that they *will* become a moral citizen, but evil knows no limit, no age,... nor time, as evil is and always be forever present.

The framers understood this truth, ratifying the constitution in 1791 and *enshrining* the second amendment, with the crux being, that *all* people have a natural/God given right to defend their life and this right shall *not* be infringed. Accompanying this foundation, were the *fresh* wounds from a tyrannical British Crown and the multitude of engagements of the Revolutionary War.

This history lesson may be getting *old*, but I must leave you with another point of contention to Senate Bill 169, that many men fighting in the battles of Trenton, Brandywine, Saratoga and *in* the beginning with the Siege of Boston, were the ages of 20, 17 and even 15. These young men bore arms, *fighting* the greatest military force the world had seen, for an idea,...that of liberty.

This old, long standing example of history and tradition, of the people, keeping and bearing arms, aligns with the plain text of the second amendment, and shall not be infringed. Hearing this will enlighten some, *anger* others and I hope,... bring a sense of appreciation to their sacrifice.

My desire is that the above will age well with all present, and *that* it will become common sense to all in time.

I'll leave you with an eloquent quote by Thomas Paine,

"He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself."

I yield my time.

Testimony in opposition to: SB23-169, Increasing Minimum Age to Purchase Firearms

(Handout attached)

Thank you, Chair and Committee

My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado an NRA-affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety.

I am a former U.S. Army Officer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration.

We allow 18 to 21 year-old persons to vote, and to serve in the armed forces. Indeed, in the event of a national emergency, we may compel them to serve in the military at age 18.

As part of their military service, we expect them to handle everything from side arms to armored vehicles, and nuclear weapons. Now, we are going to tell them that they are not mature enough to purchase and possess firearms?

Setting aside the current legal challenges to similar laws in other jurisdictions and the likelihood that this measure will be struck down by the courts, we believe this bill to be a slap in the face to every law-abiding young person in the affected age group. The offenders that the bill attempts to address are a tiny fraction of the population affected by this legislation.

(Please see the handout regarding compliance with gun laws by Researchers Kates and Mauser.)

If, in fact, the brains of people in this age group are not developed enough to handle firearms, perhaps we should exempt them from military service, until they mature. We probably should also consider raising the voting age.

We urge a "No" vote on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Edmiston
Volunteer Lobbyist
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado.

Tara L Hunnicutt

March 8, 2023

Colorado Senate: State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee

Testimony Against SB23-169: Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms

I am unable to testify, so I ask that this be submitted for the record of the above bill.

My name is Tara Hunnicutt, and I have lived in Colorado since 2000. I am a wife and mother of a teenager. I am passionate about the safety of myself and my family and my rights as a human being. The right of individuals to protect themselves is paramount to our livelihood. Therefore, I educate my child and others about firearms and general safety against violent criminals.

I oppose SB-169, which, in my opinion, is illogical. To be an active member of the United States Armed Forces, the minimum age is 18. We, as a nation, will allow 18-year-old men and women to fight for our and others' freedom overseas with firearms. Yet, this bill will not allow 18-year-old men or women to purchase firearms to protect themselves and their families from violent criminals.

I will support my child if she decides to purchase a firearm for her own protection, which is her right as a United States citizen, upon her 18th birthday.

Please OPPOSE SB23-169.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara L Hunnicutt

2174 S Parfet Court

Lakewood, CO 80227

303-667-3310

Dear Committee,

I am reaching out on behalf of SB23-169 the proposed legislation to increase the age to purchase a firearm. It should be clear that this proposed legislation is very unconstitutional. It is sad when the people who represent us will send 18 year old's to war and put their lives at risk but will try to remove their civil rights at the same time. One can vote when they turn 18, one can be drafted into the military, one must pay taxes, however one who is an adult and has every responsibility to better this State and Country cannot exercise a fundamental right to defend their own life due to this proposed legislation. Give them a rifle overseas but take it from them when they are in their own home. This law has been ruled unconstitutional in Federal courts already and is probably looking at Injunctive relief in the courts so you are ultimately wasting the citizens of Colorado's tax dollars and time. This proposed legislation has been tried in other states and has not made them any safer from violent criminals, in fact it has made a group of people defenseless and victims. Oppose SB23-169 and stop putting Colorado citizens in danger of becoming the next victim.

Respectfully,

Benjamin O'Loughlin

March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Coleman and Members of the State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee,

My name is Dr. Michael Bagg and I am a pediatrician at Children's Hospital Colorado and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am here to speak in support of SB23-169 on behalf of the Colorado chapter of the AAP and Children's Hospital Colorado asking you to support SB23-169. Firearm injuries are one of the leading causes of death in our youth. These untimely deaths among children and young adults come from a variety of categories, including, accidental, suicide, and homicide, but they also don't represent the full toll that gun violence places on our community.

You have been inundated with the statistics at this point. I don't need to emphasize that 10,000 young adults and children under the age of 24 died in 2020 throughout the country. The reality is those numbers don't grasp the true cost of guns in our communities. We don't completely understand the true cost of gun violence because it is hard to quantify the long-term costs on the physical and mental health of those who survive being shot by a firearm.

When I think of children and young adults affected by gun violence, I think of the survivors. Those who were injured in seconds and will now spend a lifetime dealing with the consequences. The first gunshot wound I took care of was a young toddler who had to spend months in rehab because they found a loaded gun in their home and accidentally shot themselves. I spent countless hours working on their pain regimen so they could participate in therapies to recover. I think of the teenagers who I recently took care of who are now just beginning their recovery journey. They survived, but now face the long road to both mental and physical recovery. It is hard to quantify the toll that gun violence takes on our community, so rather than recite statistics to you, I hope you remember that every survivor, and every person that survivor touches, is negatively impacted by gun violence.

I am asking you to vote yes on SB23-169 because we should be harder for young people to obtain firearms given, they are in a high risk population. These young children and adults are still in a period of development, and are still developing their impulse control well beyond the age of 21. SB23-169 will limit their access to guns during this critical period of development can save their lives and prevent a lifetime of trauma from impacting them and their loved ones.

Sincerely,

Michael Bagg, MD

Dear Committee Chairman and Committee Members

My name is Edward Schoenheit, I am retired combat veteran and former law enforcement officer.

I am testifying against both of these proposed bills (SB23-168 & SB23-169) in their current form as they fail to address to core issues that they are trying to solve. They are both critically flawed in their approach and even more so in their true hidden political agenda.

SB23-168 title and purpose are misleading and disingenuous. Suing law abiding gun store owners and firearm manufactures is just another step in a political agenda that fails to properly place the blame where it deserved. The ATF already has an enforcement mechanism for gun dealers and manufacturers.

It is unfortunate that the Denver Assembly fails to correctly and justly place the responsibility on those that should bear it if they truly seek to make a meaningful and lasting change.

The responsibility for youth gun violence that these two bills aim to try and address is the responsibility of the parents. It is not the responsibility of lawful firearm owners exercising their constitutional rights that the Denver Assembly seeks to marginalize and strip.

Parents should be held criminally liable and responsible for the criminal and heinous insane actions of their children. From the current case playing out in Michigan Oxford school shooting where the parents bought their mentally ill son a gun and now are trying to absolve themselves of responsibility. (the first parents charged in America in a school mass shooting).

This gets at the core of the issues in our society and why these school shooting are occurring. Parents need to go to prison with their child. Parents need to be held accounting to teach their children and enforce a level of discipline that ensure a respect for human life. Until that happens all the knee-jerk, feel-good guns laws in the nation are meaningless.

If the Assembly truly wants to effect change then deny these two bills and draft a new bills that puts parents at the forefront of ensuring their children don't become a menace to society and hold them accountable if they fail.

V/R

Edward B Schoenheit

LTC, USA Ret.

Testimony of Peggy A. Houchin, March 8, 2023,

Testimony in opposition to SB23-170, SB23-169, SB23-168, SB23-1219

My name is Peggy Houchin and I live in Loveland, Colorado (Larimer County). I am actively involved with training and educating women regarding firearms usage and safety. I am a Facilitator for “A Girl & A Gun” which is a national organization that promotes and encourages women to get firearms training in a safe and nonjudgmental environment. I am passionate about the 2nd amendment and the right for US citizens to own and use firearms.

I am testifying in opposition to SB23-170, SB23-169, SB23-168, SB23-1219. Approximately 3 years ago, I was taking my dog to the groomers in downtown Loveland. I pulled into their small parking lot and got out of my car to drop off my dog Mitzi. On the way back to my car, a man in a car next to me, began to yell very vulgar obscenities at me. I had absolutely no idea why and before I got to my car, he got out of his car and started towards me with pepper spray. I yelled at him and told him I was going to call 911 and he said “go ahead bitch” call them. I took a photo of his license plates and got back into my car and drove away. I was absolutely terrified and didn’t stop shaking until I got home. I contacted the local police who said that it was “assault” and that they would arrest him if I pressed charges. After some discussions with an attorney and the fear of repercussions, I decided to drop it. However, it impacted me in a very negative way, and based on that incident, I’ve become more passionate about my own safety by carrying a firearm and training other women to protect themselves.

During this incident, several bystanders saw what was happening (including the grooming shop owner) and NO ONE offered to help me. We truly are our own first responders!

I have a chapter of A Girl & A Gun in N. Colorado of nearly 70 women ranging in ages from 18-87. In addition, I have taught many, many women in my Women’s Handgun and Self Defense class and the stories that they share regarding stalkers, angry ex-husbands and boyfriends that have threatened them and their children is mind boggling and tragic! These incidents prompt these women to want to protect themselves with a handgun either as concealed carry or home defense.

Both of these over-reaching bills: limiting the age to purchase a firearm to 21 and a 3 day waiting period **absolutely** put these women and their children in danger! There are many single moms in Colorado who are under the age of 21 and their constitutional right to protect themselves would be stolen. Responsible gun ownership and gun safety should be the focus of this Legislature instead of taking away rights of law abiding citizens of Colorado.

I STRONGLY urge you to oppose these bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Houchin

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

The racist origin of gun control laws The Hill

By David Kopel and Joseph Greenlee, opinion contributors - 08/22/17 11:00 AM EDT 1,286

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Guns have historically protected Americans from white supremacists, just as gun control has historically protected white supremacists from the Americans they terrorize.

One month after the Confederate surrender in 1865, Frederick Douglass urged federal action to stop state and local infringement of the right to arms. Until this was accomplished, Douglass argued, “the work of the abolitionists is not finished.”

Indeed, it was not. As the Special Report of the Paris Anti-Slavery Conference of 1867 found, freedmen in some southern states “were forbidden to own or bear firearms, and thus were rendered defenseless against assault.” Thus, white supremacists could continue to control freedmen through threat of violence.

Congress demolished these racist laws. The Freedmen’s Bureau Bill of 1865, Civil Rights Act of 1866, and Civil Rights Act of 1870 each guaranteed all persons equal rights of self-defense. Most importantly, the 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, made the Second Amendment applicable to the states.

Kansas Senator Samuel Pomeroy extolled the three “indispensable” “safeguards of liberty under our form of government,” the sanctity of the home, the right to vote, and “the right to bear arms.” So “if the cabin door of the freedman is broken open and the intruder enter...then should a well-loaded musket be in the hand of the occupant to send the polluted wretch to another world.”

Because of the 14th Amendment, gun control laws now had to be racially neutral. But states quickly learned to draft neutrally-worded laws for discriminatory application. Tennessee and Arkansas prohibited handguns that freedmen could afford, while allowing expensive “Army & Navy” handguns, which ex-Confederate officers already owned.

The South Carolina law against concealed carry put blacks in chain gangs, but whites only paid a small fine, if anything. In the early 20th century, such laws began to spread beyond the ex-Confederacy. An Ohio Supreme Court Justice acknowledged that such statutes reflected “a decisive purpose to entirely disarm the Negro.”

When lynching increased in the 1880s, the vice-president of the National Colored Press Association, John R. Mitchell, Jr., encouraged blacks to buy Winchesters to protect their families from “the two-legged animals ... growling around your home in the dead of night.”

Ida B. Wells, the leading journalist opposing lynching, agreed. In the nationally-circulated pamphlet Southern Horrors, Wells documented cases in Kentucky and Florida, “where the men armed themselves” and fended off lynch mobs. “The lesson this teaches,” Wells wrote, “is that a Winchester rifle should have a place of honor in every black home, and it should be used for that protection which the law refuses to give.”

After the thwarted lynching in Florida, the state legislature enacted a law requiring a license to possess “a pistol, Winchester rifle or other repeating rifle.” A Florida Supreme Court Justice later explained: “the

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Act was passed for the purpose of disarming the negro laborers” and “was never intended to apply to the white population and in practice has never been so applied.”

While lynching began to decline in the early twentieth century, race riots increased. According to historian John Dittmer, blacks fought “back successfully when the mobs invaded their neighborhoods” during the Atlanta riots in 1906. When police stood idle as 23 blacks were killed during riots resulting from a black man swimming into “white” water near Chicago, blacks used rifles to kill 15 attackers.

During the Tulsa Race Riot in 1921, whites (with government approval) burned down a square mile of the prosperous district nicknamed “Black Wall Street,” killing 200 blacks. There would have been more devastation had blacks not fought back, killing 50 of their attackers.

Firearms made possible the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Charles Cobb’s excellent book, “This Nonviolent Stuff’ll Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible” describes how pacifist community organizers from the North learned to accept the armed protection of their black, rural communities.

The Deacons for Defense and Justice was an armed community defense organization, founded in 1965. With .38 Special revolvers and M1 carbines, they deterred terrorism in the “Klan country” region of Louisiana and Mississippi. When Dr. King led the “Meredith March against Fear” for voter registration in Mississippi, the Deacons provided armed security.

Condoleezza Rice became a self-described “Second Amendment absolutist,” because of her experiences growing up in Birmingham. She recalled the bombings in the summer of 1963, when her father helped guard the streets at night. Had the civil rights workers’ guns been registered, she argued, they could have been confiscated, rendering the community defenseless.

Similarly, when the Klan targeted North Carolina’s Lumbee Indians in 1958 because of their “race mixing,” the Lumbee drove off the Klan in an armed confrontation, the Battle of Hayes Pond. Klan operations ceased in the region.

Justice Clarence Thomas’s opinion in the 2010 McDonald v. Chicago explicated the history of gun control as race control. Historically, people of color in the United States have often had to depend on themselves for protection. Sometimes the reason is not overt hostility by the government, but instead the incapability of government to secure public safety, as in Chicago today.

Self-defense is an inherent human right. The 14th Amendment is America’s promise that no law-abiding person will be deprived of that right, regardless of color.

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The views expressed by contributors are their own and are not the views of The Hill.

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