

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

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SB23-169 Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Art Momper Against themselves	This is another feel good effort to tame gun involved incidents. Historically, guns were available to all ages and gun involved violence rarely involved minors or those below 21 years old. The incidence of gun involved violence has risen with the advent of social media and video games. Additionally, the recent push by liberals to divide the country on racial issues and economic issues and the move to release violent criminals of all ages almost immediately upon arrest is creating this surge in violence. You should deal with these intrinsic factors before denying the rights of citizens to purchase and enjoy legal firearm ownership.
Mark Rademacher Against themselves	I am a veteran and believe if you can serve your country, putting your life on the line, buying a firearm should not be an issue. Buying a firearm is a right, not a privilege. You need to quit trying to alter the constitution to fit your agenda. The constitution is the law of the land, and you have no business trying to change it. You have a society and criminal problem, not a firearm problem. I don't know why you don't understand that the people who commit these crimes don't follow the laws that you people keep coming up with. Keep the criminals behind bars and quit plea bargaining charges down. We have DA's that plea bargain everything down because it makes their conviction rate look good. That's where the problem is, doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out. Get tough on the criminals, not us law abiding citizens!
Rionda Osman For League of Women Voters of Colorado	TO: House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Sponsors of SB23-169 Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms The Legislative Action Committee of the League of Women Voters of Colorado has voted to support SB23-169 Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms. I urge you to increase the legal age to purchase, possess, sell, or transfer a firearm and to increase sanctions on those who intentionally provide a firearm to an underage person. The bill makes exceptions for hunting, military and other job duties, and supervised use, among others.

	<p>Raising the minimum age for purchase should make it more difficult for underage individuals to acquire firearms through formal channels. According to research from the Rand Corporation, because background checks do not access juvenile records, those aged 18 with established histories of presenting a risk of harm to themselves or others may nevertheless pass background checks.</p> <p>Because young people most often obtain their guns from family, friends, or the black market, the disincentive for others to give guns to juveniles must be strong. Reducing access to guns by juveniles can reduce suicide and unintentional harm</p> <p>This bill has the potential to protect underage Coloradans. Please support it.</p> <p>Rionda Osman 2211 Nicholl Street West Boulder CO 80304</p> <p>References</p> <p>Rand Corporation. The Effects of Minimum Age Requirements. Updated January 10, 2023. https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/minimum-age.html</p>
<p>Laurel Burns For herself</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 experience restrictions placed on them because of age, such as the purchase of alcohol and tobacco, and the right to drive. These restrictions are for the safety of all, including those 18-21.</p> <p>It is even more important that similar age restrictions are mandated when it comes to the purchase or use 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>
<p>Jeanne Bucci</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Hello Committee Members,</p> <p>My name is Jeanne Bucci. I live one minute from the Boulder King Soopers that was the site of the horrific mass shooting which took the lives of 10 beloved neighbors, terrorized over 100 shoppers fleeing for their lives, and left an entire community grief-stricken and in fear.</p> <p>The Table Mesa shopping center was one of the only places I allowed my then 12 -year -old to go alone because it was so close and felt very safe, being the community hub for our neighborhood. She had gone there alone the day before the shooting and the day before that. She even talked about going on her own the day of the shooting. I tremble at the thought that she might've been there, on her own, at the time of a mass shooting! It was just sheer luck that none of my family members were there that day, since we would stop off there several times a week.</p> <p>The reality is, no place is safe anymore. The extreme prevalence of gun violence in this country is a public health crisis. Firearms are now the number one cause of death to children in the US. It is incumbent upon all of us to do everything in our power to address this crisis.</p> <p>That is why I am urging you to support SB23-169, the increasing Minimum Age to Purchase Firearms bill. Evidence shows that 18-20 year olds commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 and over. This is a common-sense, evidence based bill that focuses on a group 3 times more likely to commit gun violence, thereby keeping guns out of the hands of those most likely to misuse them. Colorado would be joining California, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Rhode Island and Vermont in enacting this bill.</p> <p>The people of Colorado want to restore safety to their communities so their loved ones are safe from gun violence, and we can all stop living in fear! As legislators, you have the power to make that happen.</p> <p>Please support SB23-169.</p>

	<p>Thank you, Jeanne Bucci</p>
<p>Michael Koenig Against themselves</p>	<p>This proposed law does nothing to the criminals or those involved in criminal activity. Nor is there punishment for said criminals.</p> <p>The age requirement is already governed by the federal government and upheld by the ATF. If you want the age changed why are you not putting your efforts toward the ATF instead of law abiding Colorado residents that voted for you.</p> <p>And are we going to apply the 21 age requirement to the entire constitution ie. voting and military. Oh I forgot we are in Colorado and we are not federal lawmakers.</p>
<p>Keith Emerson Amend themselves</p>	<p>Please strip this bill of everything except not allowing those 18 through 20 to purchase semi-automatic centerfire rifles.</p> <p>As usual this bill layers on much more state control than necessary to meet it's stated goal. While appearing to be a way to keep semi-auto centerfire rifles out of the hands of 18-21 year olds and possibly save a few lives from gun violence suicide, although maybe not suicide by other means, it includes many more requirements not toward that end. As currently written this bill can be interpreted as a slap against both youth hunting (where Colorado allows someone as young as 16 to hunt by themselves) and firearm related sports, possibly even the Boy Scout program. After prohibiting everything it takes multiple pages to list various exceptions, a number of them badly written. There was testimony in the senate hearing about these other aspects.</p> <p>Please strip this bill of everything except keeping semi-automatic centerfire rifles out of the hands of irresponsible youth.</p>
<p>Ronnie Broyles Against themselves</p>	<p>First, I would like to say that this committee is disingenuous. The minds of each member of the majority party on this committee regarding this bill were made up before you ever convened this meeting today. I can't even call this a representative government. The only reason you are holding these meetings is because you are required to by law, otherwise you would each be happy ruling in secret like the old Soviet of 50 years ago.</p> <p>SB23-169 is a slap in the face to anyone old enough to wear the uniform of this country. You are telling people 18 years of age, but less than 21 years of age that they are more than welcome to "serve their country", and to</p>

	<p>die in defense of our country and our Constitution, but they are not welcome to enjoy the same Constitutional rights as their 21 year old peers. If you intend to raise the age to purchase a long gun (a Constitutional RIGHT) then you should also raise the age of enlistment, the age to vote, the age of majority, the age to sit on a jury and the age to drive.</p> <p>Each of you are more than happy to try and turn a Constitutional RIGHT into a privilege. Your hoplophobia is stifling. It is irrational and indefensible. Each of you took an oath to uphold the Constitutions of both the state of Colorado and the United States. That includes that amendment that you hate so badly. I end by saying again--your minds were made up before this committee was convened. Why did you even convene it if you knew that all you would do is rubber stamp this bill it at the end?</p>
<p>Theodore Cahoon Against themselves</p>	<p>Eighteen years of age is considered to be the legal age of adulthood for voting, enlisting in the military, and legal decisions. This bill to increase the minimum age to purchase firearms, should be rejected. If 18 is too young to possess a firearm, then it is also too young to make all adult decisions and the minimum age of adulthood should be changed to 21. Repeal the 26th Amendment first.</p>
<p>Joseph Perry Against themselves</p>	<p>It is about 50 years since I was an active protestor and demonstrator. Our aim was to extend civil rights to blacks who had been discriminated against by all levels of government, and to extend the franchise to young men who could be drafted to die for their country, without being able to vote on the people sending them to war. We wanted to extend rights to those who had been deprived of them, and we thought ourselves progressive. It interests me that now it is progressive that you are trying to deprive of rights a class - people between 18 and 21 - that we wanted to extend rights to. I have been involved in youth firearms instruction for years and disagree strongly with your evident distrust of their ability to function maturely with firearms. Logically, if you are correct, when you go to criminalize them for keeping and bearing arms you should simultaneously strip them of the franchise we wanted to extend to them. If you seriously believe they cannot be trusted with possessing firearms, you should disbelieve in their ability to direct the state.</p>
<p>Travis Couture-Lovelady Against National Rifle Association</p>	<p>NRA OPPOSES "RAISE THE AGE" LEGISLATION</p> <p>On behalf our members in Colorado we oppose SB 169.</p> <p>It is unconstitutional and ineffective.</p> <p>At age 18, citizens are eligible to vote, serve in the military (83% of United States Marine Corps enlistees are 20 or younger) and be drafted. An 18-to-20-year-old may be tried as an adult for crimes in state and federal courts. Young adults may serve in law enforcement, may generally serve on a jury,</p>

	<p>enter into contracts, sue and be sued, get married and own property. The landmark SCOTUS District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) decision did not suggest that young adults are excluded from “the people” protected by the Second Amendment. As the Heller decision made clear, “the people, from whom the militia must be taken, shall have the right to keep and bear arms.” At the time of the Founding, 18-to-20-year-olds were permitted—indeed required—to be part of the militia and to arm themselves. The age of majority remains 18 today for militia.</p> <p>In NYSRPA v. Bruen (2022), SCOTUS made clear that in order for a firearm regulation to pass muster under the Second Amendment the government must “identify a well-established and representative historical analogue.” Regarding prohibitions on young adults purchasing firearms, this cannot be done. There were no laws that restricted 18-20 year-olds from purchasing firearms at the time of the American founding.</p> <p>The People is a term of art in the constitution: “‘the people’ protected by the Fourth Amendment, and by the First and Second Amendments, and to whom rights and powers are reserved in the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, refers to a class of persons who are part of a national community or who have otherwise developed sufficient connection with this country to be considered part of that community.” United States v. Verdugo-Urquidez, 494 U.S. 259, 265 (1990). Young adults have First and Fourth Amendment rights. They therefore have Second Amendment rights. They cannot be denied of those rights.</p>
<p>Mark Kaiser Against themselves</p>	<p>Sb23-169 would not have made any difference in the horrific crimes, mass shootings and murders at Columbine, the aurora theater, the STEM school, the Boulder King Soopers, and Club Q. The monsters that committed these atrocities take plenty of time and planning before carrying out their vile agendas.</p> <p>Waiting periods are of no consequence to criminals. While it may possibly decrease suicide, the studies are not consistent or robust in their conclusions on homicides or other crimes committed with guns. This bill would only delay first time buyers needing fire arm for self-defense that would limit their ability to safeguard themselves and their loved ones.</p> <p>Sb23-169 would be just another law that would have no effect on those that want to do harm to law abiding citizens. Remember, criminals don’t read laws, they have their own agendas and paper doesn’t deter them. Only the promise and enforcement of severe punishment and accountability will deter the next mass shooter.</p> <p>Mark Kaiser</p>

	<p>7035 Zenobia</p> <p>Westminster Co80030</p> <p>Registered volunteer lobbyist</p> <p>3035980630</p>
<p>Henry Platts</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Our nation is the most free nation in this world. As such it is the responsibility of each citizen to exercise their freedoms with the utmost caution and resolve. Unfortunately few feel this way.</p> <p>We see this societal degradation, everywhere, people running stop signs, horrific accidents, shootings, the list is long.</p> <p>Over the last 20 years underage persons or young people have committed countless acts of violence in schools, streets etc. With legally and illegally purchased firearms.</p> <p>So naturally politicians glom on to low hanging fruit, outlaw certain arms, ban them, raise firearms purchasing ages.</p> <p>Making new laws and changing others will not change how many millions of firearms are in this country. Availability is there and everywhere.</p> <p>Making more laws also makes more criminals.</p> <p>Our soldiers are 18 and older, hand them a rifle in the military but not when they get home. The American Rifleman is what made our country and what keeps our country free and safe. This extends around the globe. Look to Ukraine and the rifle training programs for civilians turned infantry.</p> <p>Interesting idea raising the purchasing age for long guns to over 18, similar to voting ages during Vietnam. We don't need to raise firearms purchasing ages.</p>

	<p>We need to help this nations massive violence problem. Passing more regulations and thrusting them on the citizens of our country is useless.</p> <p>We need real solutions to violence and the disconnect people feel apparently regarding simulated violence and real violence.</p> <p>Perhaps our nation should look to Germany and other European nations who mandate firearms education, licensing, and participation in the shooting sports.</p> <p>The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a place our state government can look to for inspiration. Education and easing societal pressures on our youth is the answer. Kids don't change, the society around them changes and they are being left behind. Some feel violence is the only answer, why is this, where does it come from. How can our country start solving this. Child psychologists, curriculum changes a fundamental shift is needed to save this country's youth.</p> <p>Not laws</p>
<p>Reedy LASH Against themselves</p>	<p>SB23-169 is another misguided piece of legislation that WILL DO NOTHING to curb the gun violence in CO. The shooting that have been happening recently as reported by the media are with juveniles who are under 18, How is raising the age limit to 21 years of age to purchase a gun going to stop this. By Federal Law a person has to be 21 to buy a handgun, long guns are 18. A person in the military or a resident who wants to hunt or sport shoot would be affected. The recent shootings in CO, all those shooters were over 21, so what is being accomplished by passing this bill into law, nothing. This bill and the other anti-gun bills do nothing to stop the gun violence and only infringe on the 2A rights of the law abiding. Why isn't the auto theft epidemic not a top priority in the House and Senate?</p> <p>You elected officials need to deal with problems affecting CO, not be making new problems with feel good legislation.</p>
<p>Darrell Dinges Against themselves</p>	<p>I oppose raising the age to purchase firearms to 21. This will prevent young adults from owning firearms for hunting, sport shooting and self-defense. Currently, 18 year olds are allowed to vote and join the military. They should also be allowed to have Second Amendment rights. Some young</p>

	<p>adults may live on their own and should be able to protect their homes and family.</p>
<p>Meneka Hecox For East Students Demand Action</p>	<p>Hi My name is Meneka Hecox. I am representing Student Demand Action. I am a 15-year-old Freshman at East Highschool. I hope that my lawmaker and this committee pass this bill, for the following reasons.</p> <p>On February 13th Luis Garcia was shot on the East campus. He died on March 1st. A 16-year-old and a 17-year-old shot him. 43,450 children experienced a school shooting in the past year. What’s to say this number couldn’t be bigger this year if this bill does not get passed? New york times states 6 out of 9 of the deadliest mass shootings since 2018 were by people under the age of 21. When we came back to school, that week a kid brought a gun to school. He did not go far with it. This was not the first time that this had happened. I go to school with 18-year-olds. A student can buy a gun. My sister who just turned 18 can buy a gun. This is the problem. Our brains have not fully developed yet but we can possess a gun. We haven’t even lived our lives.</p> <p>I should not have to be writing this, trying to persuade you to pass this bill. This speech should not have to persuade you because you should see the obvious choice. Students' lives should not be a debate. Students should not be able to buy a gun, period.</p> <p>By passing this bill you will be protecting young kids' lives, without them even knowing. Increasing the minimum age to buy a gun is a crucial part of student safety, of my safety I’m writing to you, asking for your protection. My school does not need to lose another life for this bill to be passed. Please help protect me and my fellow classmates. Please pass this bill.</p>