

In Opposition to HB23-1230

Prohibit Assault Weapons in Colorado

Madam Chair Senator Fields and Representative Epps, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Susan J. Bradley, representing myself. I am here to oppose this bill because it will basically make it illegal for every day citizens to own arms.

When Joseph Stalin ruled Russia; his government shot, deported, or starved to death my great-aunts and great-uncles. They were unable to defend themselves because they had no weapons. When China invaded Korea, my friend from South Korea said the people had only spears, arrows, or pitchforks to defend themselves against guns and artillery.

HB23-1230 will effectively disarm the people of Colorado. Unarmed citizens will be unable to defend themselves from a dictatorship within our country or enemies from outside the country. It is an intentional attack on our ability to defend ourselves in order to control the population.

Instead of enacting onerous gun laws, we need to be focusing on making schools, libraries, churches, grocery stores, and other group locations safe. Each school should have a well trained Security Resource Officer who knows the students well and can identify and help at risk individuals before they become mass shooters. The NRA has offered grants for decades to provide safer schools and other buildings. The knowledge of how to protect people is available but Democrats would rather focus on gun control as a way to paint Republicans as anti-safety.

The media gleefully reports each mass shooting. It is far easier to report such events than to research the causes and publish data that would inform the public and the legislators. For example, how many of these mass shooters are on prescribed medication for attention deficit or other conditions? How many shooters are drug addicts? How many have been abused by persons in authority? How many lack a strong male figure in the home? How many are Democrats or children of Democrats?

We need to each model and teach personal responsibility in our community. If each of us mentored a person at risk and taught self-worth, we could diminish mass shootings and homelessness and create a far better life for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you,

Susan J. Bradley

Arvada, Colorado