

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

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HB22-1106 Concealed Handguns On School Grounds

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Briston Brown For Self	<p>This bill will help support and enable law abiding citizens to be able to protect one of the most important things in our lives and community - our children. The current law does not stop criminals who intend to do harm to our children in school - they will break the law and kill regardless of what's on paper/enforced or not. We then leave our children unprotected while blanketing them with a false sense of security against those that wish to do grave harm. The current law does not support but restricts law abiding citizens and punishes those that carry to protect themselves and loved ones.</p> <p>We need more supportive laws for law abiding citizens rather than restrictive and punishing ones. Give the rights back to the people and enable them to protect themselves, families, friends, and loved ones.</p>
Carol Callicotte-Belmon Against Self	<p>I am strongly opposed to this bill. Representative Neville cynically proposes this bill every year, despite mounting evidence that guns in school make our children decidedly less safe. Large majorities of teachers and school staff oppose this. Large majorities of parents oppose this. And large majorities of law enforcement opposes this. Armed adults frequently mishandle guns in schools, endangering students and all who work in the school. Guns in the schools simply introduces new dangers to the school without offering any deterrence or protection. Let's focus on the many things that can actually help: more counselors and social workers, safe storage education, security upgrades, emergency plans, and better utilizing our ERPO law. Please vote no on this bill.</p>
Rionda Osman Against Self	<p>Written testimony submitted to the State, Civic, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee In opposition to HB22-1106 Concealed Handguns on School Grounds Submitted by Rionda Osman, Boulder CO 25 February 2022</p> <p>HB22-1106 Concealed Handguns on School Grounds would remove limitations on carrying a concealed handgun on public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school grounds. Under this bill, local governments could not restrict carrying a concealed handgun on school grounds by a person who has a valid concealed carry permit. Colorado statutes forbid the possession of a deadly weapon at a Colorado school. According to the fiscal note, from FY 2018-2019 to FY 2020-2021, 28 people have been convicted and sentenced for this class 6 felony. This bill would overturn that prohibition. Colorado statutes permit local jurisdictions to enact their own policies concerning gun violence. This bill would overturn that statute.</p>

	<p>School shootings are tragic and shocking, but children are more likely to be harmed away from school grounds than on school grounds. The current prohibitions against guns on school grounds and campuses have created a safe space that should be protected.</p> <p>I urge the committee to vote no on HB22-1106 Concealed Handguns on School Grounds.</p>
<p>Carolyn Shepherd Against Self</p>	<p>I urge the Committee to vote against HB22-1106. In this country our children are traumatized by the existence of and planning for gun violence in schools. News reporting of school shooting violence and shooter drills all normalize the fear that is caused by guns in schools. We have seen time and again how the mythology surrounding a “good guy with a gun” does not actually improve the situation. In November in Arvada Johnny Hurley was accidentally shot by police when acting as a “good guy with a gun”. At Parkland, the “good guy with a gun” actually did not intervene to protect the children. In 1999 my children were in the 9th and 11th grades when the Columbine shooting occurred. Though they were nowhere near that school, they came home from their high school traumatized by the gun violence and remain so to this day. My grandchildren talk about school shootings all the time. The last thing we need is for more people to carry guns into schools. This should not be normalized, it is abnormal. I am a retired physician. For much of my career I was not permitted to talk about gun safety with the children in my practice, yet this bill would let anyone with a concealed carry permit walk guns on to school grounds. This would be madness. Please vote against HB22-1106.</p>

Firearm Injuries and Death in Colorado Adults

Why legislators should vote "NO" on:

HB22-1106: CONCEALED HANDGUNS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

James Todd, MD

Methods:

The numbers of firearm and automobile injuries during 2014-2020 in Colorado adults were estimated using the Colorado Hospital Association inpatient and Emergency Department (ED) databases.¹ Firearm injury patients were identified by the presence of external cause of injury E-codes for 2014 through September 2015, and equivalent ICD-10 codes for the last quarter of 2015 as well as 2016-2020 (see Appendix for more details). To adjust for possible double counting caused by transfers related to the same injury, cases with proximate dates of visit, and the same birth year, birth month, gender and ZIP code were consolidated into a single record. Because the majority of firearm fatalities are not accounted for in ED or hospital records, we independently estimated overall fatalities due to firearm injury using the CDC Wonder database from 1999 to 2020.² The CDC Wonder Database reporting restrictions prohibit publishing individual category case counts < 10.

Results

Fatal firearm and automobile injuries:

Not all firearm or automobile fatalities are seen in an ED or hospital, so they are not be fully reflected in the CHA database. Using the CDC Wonder national death certificate database, we identified Colorado adults who died due to firearm or automobile injury between 1999 and 2020. Figure 1 shows that the yearly number of fatal firearm injuries in adults >= 20 years significantly increased from 1999-2020 exceeding automobile deaths. Figure 2 shows the majority of these firearm deaths were increasingly by suicide.

Figure 1: Annual number of deaths for automobile or firearm injury of Colorado adults ages >= 20 years from 1999-2020.

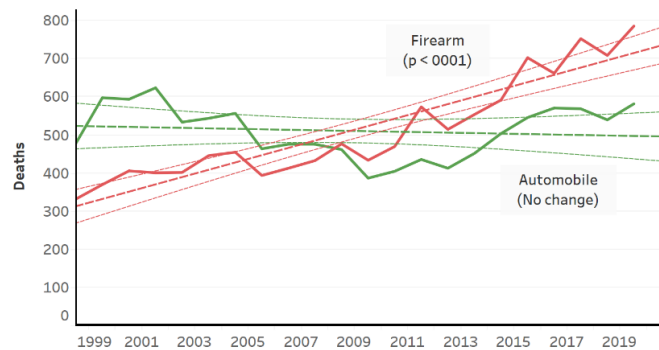


Figure 2: Annual number and intent of deaths for firearm injury of Colorado adults ages >= 20 years from 1999-2020.

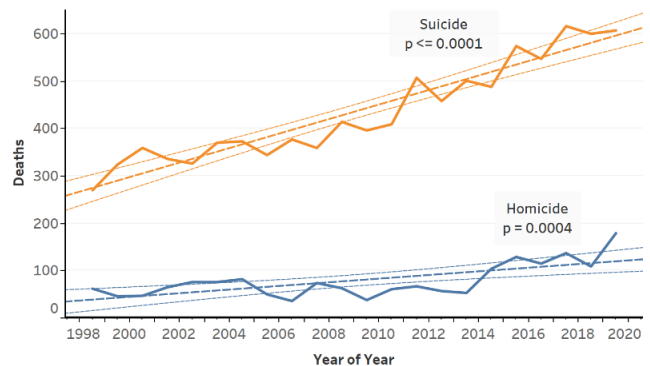
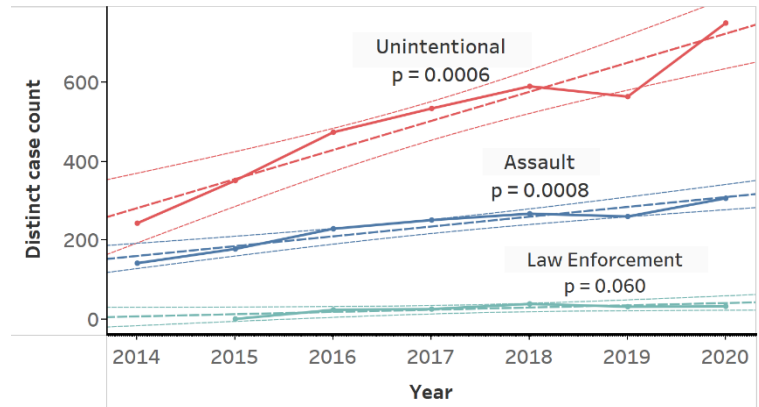


Figure 3 documents that the yearly number of fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries significantly increased in adults ≥ 20 years of age from 2014-2020, the great majority being unintentional.

Figure 3: Yearly number of fatal and non-fatal firearm injuries in Colorado adults ≥ 20 years of age seen in the ED or Hospital, 2014-2020.



The above data shows how firearms are increasingly being used to cause injury and death in Colorado.

Why it is important to vote “No” on HB22-1106:

- The annual number of fatalities due to firearms in Colorado is rapidly increasing and now exceed automobile deaths.
- The main intent of firearm-caused fatality in adults is suicide and assault, not self-defense.
- The main reasons for injury not resulting in death is “unintentional” suggesting that the possession of firearms (except by law enforcement) in schools will likely not serve the purpose of keeping children and staff safe and could result in unintended confrontations and injury.

REFERENCES

1. Armon C, Todd J. Firearm Injuries in Colorado Children, 2014 - 2015. *State of the Health of Colorado's Children*. 2017;XIII:1-5. Available at: <https://www.childrenscolorado.org/globalassets/healthcare-professionals/firearm-injury-2017-final.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database. Available at: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>. Accessed April 7, 2020 PM

Representative,

I am Testifying in Support of HB22-1106. Currently Colorado Concealed permit carriers are held to a higher standard than a non-permit holder as we all know. This higher standard consists of a background check through the ATF, very similar to an FFL or a firearms dealer, this background check means a Concealed permit holder is constantly under the spotlight and cannot hold this permit if they are a felon, or commit a violent crime. If a permit holder were to commit a crime or become a violent offender for any reason this would be reported after their arrest as the permit is flagged by one's driver license and then revoked. This means a permit holder is constantly under the spot light and always a walking background check/example for positive and safe firearm ownership. This means Concealed Carry permit holders are held to stricter standards meaning permit holders are the next safest line of defense in the situation that would present itself if law enforcement weren't around which is very often. Every day in America there is a Concealed permit holder who stops a crime and potential mass shooting from happening. Numbers also show that Concealed Carry Permit holders are not the violent offender problem that America has, including the state of Colorado. Supporting this measure would allow Concealed Permit holders to present the first line of defense at our children's sporting events or during the day when we pick our kids of from school and drop them off, responsible parents who are Concealed Carry permit holders would have a chance to stop a Sandy Hook Massacre from happening or a Columbine and even a STEM school massacre. Do we want to just throw up gun free zone signs and only let the horrible people who commit these atrocities have free reign or do we want to show them they aren't welcome and their acts will have punishment if they decide to commit them while they commit them. It is shown that criminals are far less likely to commit crimes when they know the people they prey on are armed and willing to defend. Stop these horrible atrocities from continuing to happen, allow responsible trained teachers, parents, friends and family to protect their children and others from these evil criminals on school grounds. Support HB22-1106 and allow the current responsible Concealed permit holders to use their training and knowledge to save our children, This bill isn't allowing just anybody off the street carry a firearm on school premises, this bill is allowing permit holders who are held to a higher standard and have to go through stricter background checks in order to do so. Support HB22-1106 before the next tragedy is on your hands.

Regards,

Benjamin O'Loughlin

CONCERNING HB22-1106: CONCEALED HANDGUNS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

My name is Stephanie Greenberg. I'm submitting this written testimony in opposition to HB22-1106 as a co-chair of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence, a multi-faith coalition of 47 congregations working to reduce the deaths and injuries caused by the improper use of firearms. After review and discussion of this bill, CFCU's Advocacy Committee unanimously voted its strong opposition.

I would like to thank the members of the House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee for this opportunity to express CFCU's position.

Why is CFCU opposing HB22-1106?

- This bill means that **anyone** with a concealed carry permit could bring a handgun onto a public-school campus. (To obtain a CCW permit, you need to be at least 21 years old, pass a background check, demonstrate competency with a handgun, and not have a restraining order at the time the permit is issued).
- Having a concealed carry permit is not proof that the permit holder is a law-abiding individual, as the person may have misdemeanor convictions, even violent ones, or may have committed a felony in the time since the permit was issued.
- It is folly to conclude that someone carrying a handgun at a public school would deter a psychopath with high-powered automatic weapons from carrying out their intended purpose. Armed citizens rarely successfully intervene to stop an active shooter. The emphasis should be placed on preventing these individuals from possessing firearms.
- If people carry guns in school, students can steal or forcibly take those firearms and use them against themselves and others.
- It is illogical to assume that inserting more guns into a situation in which no guns should be the standard will solve the school violence problem. It makes no sense to trust human beings with tools wielding the power to take lives in a place that should be inherently free from violence.
- Survey results indicate an overwhelming majority of teachers oppose carrying guns in school.
- Staff could face intimidation by parents who elect to bring handguns onto school campus.
- It could be harder to recruit teachers to work in schools if they know there were guns allowed on their campuses.
- Guns can and do fire accidentally. The more guns in schools, the more likely accidents and their unintended consequences will occur.
- This bill would repeal newly granted powers to local government the authority to regulate open or concealed carry of a handgun.

On behalf of the 47 faith communities in Colorado that are members of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence, I ask you to oppose HB22-1106. Thank you.