

Testimony SB17-116 Permitless Concealed Carry
February 15, 2017
Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs

My name is Julie Meyers and I am testifying on behalf of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence. I am here to testify against SB 116.

Since 2003, in order to carry a concealed weapon in Colorado, these are the requirements:

Legal residence in CO

21 years of age or older

Eligible to possess a firearm per state/federal law

No perjury conviction on concealed handgun permit application

No chronic alcohol use that might impair faculties

No use of or addiction to controlled substances

No current protection orders

Demonstration of a competence with handguns

These seem to be extremely reasonable requirements so I am at a loss to understand why they should be removed. I understand that some of these requirements are covered in the eligibility requirements to possess a firearm per state/federal law. But a concealed carry permit needs to be renewed every 5 years so these issues can be revisited periodically.

I am not naïve and I understand that people who support this bill generally feel that their right to bear arms is being denied by laws that place restrictions on that right. They feel that more guns means more safety. However, there are many of us who feel just the opposite. We feel that gun owners have certain responsibilities to have the right to carry guns. We feel that more guns make our communities less safe. So we are at an impasse.

Yet, still I don't understand why gun rights supporters would not want to make sure that people who are allowed to conceal carry have to show proficiency with a handgun. What do they have to say about the 572 Coloradans who were denied conceal carry permits in 2016? How are they comfortable that with SB 116 as law, these 572 people could be out in our communities carrying handguns.

There are currently 10 states who allow concealed carry without permits. In those states it is easier to legally carry a handgun than to legally drive a car. Don't let Colorado become one of those states. Vote no in SB 116,

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