

Hello, my name is Don Macalady and I am a member of a group of hunters and gun owners who are concerned about the proliferation of guns and gun violence in our country. We believe that gun ownership involves responsibility for gun safety and careful use of firearms. Hunters are required to provide proof that they have taken a "hunter safety" course that involves instruction in the handling and safe use of firearms. It is unlawful while hunting to carry a loaded hunting weapon in a vehicle. Protest and efforts to "repeal" these regulations of firearms are seldom, if ever, made. So, it seems that some regulation of firearms use is acceptable to everyone.

I find it difficult to believe that the proposal for concealed carry of guns that is unlimited and unregulated, is being seriously considered. Proponents claim that this will increase the safety of us all, even in the knowledge that intentional and accidental discharge of firearms causes injury and death to thousands of persons annually. From suicides to homicides, from accidents caused by the availability of firearms to children, from tragic escalations of domestic

violence to mass murders....all will be amplified by the increases in the concealed carrying of weapons that this proposed law will facilitate.

In addition, People have the right to be out in public without the concern that anyone could be carrying a concealed weapon. Gun rights are not the only relevant rights.

It seems obvious that more guns in public increase the risk of more shootings. Everyday disagreements can more easily escalate into more serious scenarios, especially in places where disputes frequently occur – in bars, at sporting events, and in traffic.

Proponents of this and other legislative efforts to make gun availability totally unlimited and unregulated, claim that they are defending the Second Amendment. This is hogwash and completely inconsistent with the meaning and intention of the Second Amendment, as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court. In fact, **absence** of reasonable regulation of the use and ownership of firearms is likely to have an opposite effect. If the Second Amendment is ever repealed, and I

certainly hope it is not, the cause will not be because of efforts toward sensible regulation of gun use and availability, it will be because the proliferation of weapons and their violent use against people convinces an angry public that gun ownership should not be protected by the Constitution.

- Anyone who legally owns a handgun in CO could carry that weapon concealed. They would no longer need to go through a criminal background check, show competence in handling the handgun, or show that they do not have a substance use issue. This endangers public safety.
- Since 2007, concealed carriers have been responsible for 849 US civilian deaths (including 17 law enforcement officials) and 29 mass shootings (data from the Violence Policy Center).
- Concealed carry does not reduce crime or mass shootings. In fact, it has been linked to increased risk of violent crime (Stanford Report, November 2014). No mass shooting has ever been stopped by an armed civilian.
- Colorado Bureau of Investigations performed

47,807 background checks for CCW permits in 2014 and found 224 “May Be Ineligible” and 122 to be “Prohibited”. Do we really want those 346 people to be able to concealed carry?

- Since the Concealed Carry Weapon program began in CO in 2003, over 4,600 people failed the background check due to felony convictions, domestic violence or adjudicated mental illness. With this bill, all would be allowed to conceal carry.
- After Arizona removed its requirement for permits for concealed carry weapons in 2010, gun related homicides increased by 27%.
- Polling indicates that 88% of voters in western states believe that permits should continue to be required to carry a hidden handgun.
- 572 people who paid for CCW permits in 2016 were denied because of prohibiting offenses.

As I have ask before, and as I must ask again, what kind of people have we become, when a significant fraction of Americans believe that the spread of deadly weapons is the only way to prevent violence towards each other? Surely, we are better than this!