



Gun Violence Prevention Talking Points

Legislative Action – Working for Freedom from Gun Violence

Likely Federal Legislation

Federally Mandated Concealed Carry (CCW)

- Would require every state to honor the CCW permits of every other state, even those where permit requirements are quite strict.
- Colorado sheriffs do have limited discretion. 17 other states allow no discretion whatsoever.
- 23 states do not require residency to obtain a permit, one is the bordering state of Utah.
- Colorado requires training. A number of states require no training whatsoever.
- Some federal proposals would even allow those from permitless CCW states carry their hidden handguns anywhere. Bordering states of Wyoming and Kansas require no permits.

Eliminating Gun-Free Zones, especially Schools

Note: There is also Colorado legislation on arming teachers and allowing any CCW permit holder to take their guns into schools.

- A Colorado bill would allow anyone with a CCW permit to carry hidden handguns into schools.
- School shootings are tragic but relatively rare. Encouraging teachers to arm, themselves introduces danger into the classroom:
 - Will the teacher have the gun on his/her body while immediately adjacent to children?
 - Will the gun be placed in an insecure place, unlocked drawer or accessible cabinet?
 - Will there be incidents where guns accidentally discharge by accident?
- Civilians aren't law enforcement
 - In Tucson 2011, an armed civilian almost shot the wrong guy.
 - In Las Vegas 2014, a shopper tried to be the "good guy with the gun" and ended up dead.
- Even highly trained law enforcement officers fail to use firearms successfully:¹
 - 21% of police officers killed with a handgun are shot with their own or partner's weapon.
 - In armed confrontations, trained law enforcement only hit 20% of their intended targets.
- The most dangerous place for children is not in their schools, but in their homes. 1/3 of American households with children younger than 18 have a gun and more than 40% of those households store their guns unlocked.²

Eliminating Permit Requirement for Silencers

- The explosive sound of a gun enables possible victims to flee, hide and call for help.
- Rarely seen at crime scenes, largely because they are highly regulated.
- Hardly sporting to have to take repeated shots at targeted animals while hunting.

General Talking Points

Guns in America

- **Not one law-abiding Colorado citizen has lost his or her guns due to the 2013 laws.**
- Guns do kill people. An average day in America: 32 people are murdered with guns, another 51 kill themselves with a gun and 45 people are wounded or killed in an accident with a gun³
- If more guns means less crime, then America would be the safest country in the world.
Guns in America: over 300 million
Gun Deaths in America: over 33,000 annually
- The U.S. firearm homicide rate is 20 times higher than the combined rates of 22 peer countries.⁴
- Colorado's gun laws were held to be constitutional in federal court in June 2014.

Judge Scalia: "The Second Amendment right is not unlimited."

Background checks work!

- Background checks on gun sales and transfers have prevented criminals and domestic violence offenders from easily obtaining firearms.
- Despite statements to the contrary, you can transfer a gun to a family member without a background check.
- A national survey of inmates found that nearly 80% of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it from a private seller.⁵
- In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 38% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners.
- Americans and Coloradoans agree. Background Checks make sense.
 - In 2000, Colorado voters approved closing the Gun Show Loophole by 70%-30%.
 - 2013 Denver Post poll: 84% of Coloradoans agree with background checks on all gun transfers.
 - Over 90% of Americans agree with having background checks on all gun transfers.

High Capacity Magazines: A menace to public safety

- High capacity magazines enable a shooter to rapidly kill large numbers of people without reloading.
- In the Aurora theater, 12 people were killed and over 58 were wounded in just 90 seconds by a gunman with an ammunition magazine that held 100 bullets.
- The time a shooter takes to reload enables victims a chance to escape or subdue the shooter.
 - Tucson shooter was disabled when reloading.
 - Seattle Pacific University student was sprayed with pepper spray and tackled when reloading.
 - Sandy Hook, as many as 11 children escaped when the shooter stopped to reload.
- "There is a direct correlation between the ammunition capacity, how much ammunition an assailant has, and how many people get shot." Daniel Webster, Johns Hopkins University researcher.

Domestic Violence: Abusers with guns pose extreme danger

- The gravest danger facing women is an abusive partner with a gun.
- Almost 2/3 of women killed with a firearm are killed by an intimate partner, not a stranger.⁶
- Women in the U.S. are 11 times more likely to be murdered with guns than women in other high-income countries.
- The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%⁷

¹ Arm Teachers? The Facts Argue Against It. Violence Policy Center

² Schuster, M.A. et al. Firearm Storage Patterns in U.S. Homes with Children. *American Journal of Public Health* 2000.

³ CDC National Injury and Prevention and Control's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System 12/28/12

⁴ Richardson, Erin G. and David Hemenway, "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm fatality: Comparing the United States with Other High Income Countries, 2003" *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection and critical Care*, June 2010.

⁵ US Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics, 2007

⁶ When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data: Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents. 2012 Violence Policy Center

⁷ Campbell, J.C. et al., Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multi-Site Case Control Study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 2003.

Colorado Ceasefire has been working since 2000 for freedom from gun violence.

Ceasefire is comprised of 3 organizations: Outreach, Legislative Action and PAC.

Join our action email list by sending a note to: info@ColoradoCeafire.org

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