



P.O. Box 7501
Denver, Colorado 80207
303-380-6711
web: www.coloradoceasefire.org

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2017

For information, contact:
Eileen McCarron 303-377-7697

Revealing Testimony Precedes Demise of Permitless Concealed Carry Bill

The last of this session's attempts to weaken Colorado's gun laws went down to defeat last night. By a party-line vote of 3-6, the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee rejected a proposal to allow permitless concealed carry, thereby halting (at least for this year) the gun lobby's relentless pursuit of its guns everywhere policies. This is the 8th year the General Assembly has defeated this proposal.

SB17-116 would have allowed anyone in the state to self-evaluate whether he or she is legal to carry a hidden handgun. No background check, no training, no sheriff's discretion. Only three witnesses spoke in support of the legislation, while thirteen citizens waited late into the evening to share with their elected leaders why they believed the proposal would degrade public safety.

In a startling statement, Tom Sullivan, whose son Alex was shot and killed in the Aurora Theater in 2012, said that at the time of the shooting, there were three armed off-duty police officers in the Century 16 Theater. Sullivan recounted that the shooter was in body armor and had released tear gas. He noted that the officers "could do absolutely nothing," and declared it is "pure fantasy to think" that an untrained civilian "could take someone out" in a comparable situation.

A young mother from Littleton recounted how friends of her son were threatened by an armed man in a road rage incident near her home. The man did not have a permit to carry his gun, and has been intimidating her family and the boys since they reported the aggressor to law enforcement. Why then, she wondered, would Colorado wish to legalize this man's carrying a concealed weapon?

Bill sponsor Kevin Van Winkle referred to the bill as "constitutional carry," but Jean Grattet of the League of Women Voters negated that description by reading Colorado's constitutional right to bear arms, which ends with the words "nothing herein shall be construed to apply to the practice of carrying concealed weapons."

Van Winkle also stated that "Colorado is behind the curve" on this and claimed that fifteen other states require no permit to carry concealed. Eileen McCarron of Colorado Ceasefire questioned the need to follow the lemmings off the cliff. She said that "of the states that have permitless concealed carry, all but four of them have higher gun death rates than Colorado. Those permitless states include three of the four highest gun death states in the country: Alaska, Wyoming and Mississippi."

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has been fighting for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws, which included universal background checks, a high capacity magazine ban, and domestic violence firearms relinquishment.

#