



Legislative Action – *Working for Freedom from Gun Violence*

Fact Sheet
HB20-1355 Safe Storage
Position: Support

Why a Safe Storage Law for Colorado?

Deaths from Firearms:

While no firearm deaths are acceptable, the growing number of children killed by guns in the United States is shameful: In 2019, 3,769 children under 18 were shot, one thousand of them fatally. For many of these child victims, the unsecured weapons came from home.

Youth Suicide: Between 2014-2016, 416 Colorado youth and young adults (ages 0-24) took their own lives using firearms. There are risk factors influencing suicide attempts

- * 15% of Colorado youth report considering suicide at least once last year,
- * Youth considering suicide report that the intention can pass quickly. But lethality from gun violence is 90%, compared to 5% for those who attempt death by drug overdose.
- * 90% of youth who use a gun to commit suicide use a gun found in the home,
- * The risk of suicide is 5 times greater in households with guns.

Accidental Shootings by and of Youth: Another tragic outcome of unsecured guns.

- 4.6 million children live in homes with access to an unlocked or unsupervised gun.
- Eight children and teens are injured or killed each day in the U.S., due to an unlocked or unsupervised gun in their home.
- Locking up a gun can reduce the risk of a child being killed or hurt by 73%.
- 75% of children in homes with guns claim to know where they are hidden.

School Shootings: Most all school shooters used a gun obtained from their own home.

Homicide: The presence of a gun in intimate partner violence increases the risk by 500%

What Others States Are Doing:

•According to [a tally](#) by Everytown for Gun Safety, **11 school districts (including DPS)** in four states (AZ, CA, CO, OR) have now passed resolutions requiring schools to provide parents with information about safe gun storage.

* Laws that hold gun owners accountable for negligent gun storage were associated with a **13 percent** reduction in firearm fatalities for children under 14, according to a new study. The decline was nearly **60 percent** in states with the most restrictive laws.

Conclusion:

Youth suicides and accidental shootings are not inevitable. They can be prevented by sensible restrictions on gun storage, such as those already enacted by 18 states. You can be for gun safety and the second amendment at the same time.

What Does the Law Require?

The Creation of a Fund for a Safe Storage Education Campaign.

Requires:

- Gun owners to either store their weapons so that they are not accessible to juveniles or prohibited persons.
- Gun dealers to provide locking devices and information on safe storage to buyers.

Misdemeanor Penalty for Gun Owner Violation

Exceptions:

- The gun owner carries the firearm on or close to his person
- The firearm is in a locked gun safe or other secure container
- The gun owner properly installs a locking device on the firearm
- The firearm is an antique
- Juvenile used firearm in defense of persons or livestock.

Sponsors: Reps. Monica Duran and Kyle Mullica, Sens. Jeff Bridges and Chris Hansen