



Legislative Action – Working for Freedom from Gun Violence

Fact Sheet
HB21-1106 Safe Storage
Position: Support

Why a Safe Storage Law for Colorado?

The Problem: The Spike in Firearm Fatalities:

*The combination of the pandemic and the surge in gun sales has broken all gun violence records in the United States. Mass shootings increased by more than **50%**. By late October 2020, the total number of gun homicides already exceeded the year-end total for each of the past 4 years. This count does not include gun suicides, the majority of gun deaths. Fatal accidents have passed **600**. Other forms of crime are not increasing.

*While no firearm deaths are acceptable, the growing number of children killed by guns in the United States is shameful; in 2019, **7,878 children under 18** were shot, one thousand of them fatally. For many of these child victims, the unsecured weapons came from home.

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%**.

* **Two thirds** of children in homes with guns claim to know where they are hidden.

Thirty-six % of these children have handled them.

Suicide

* The risk of suicide is **3** times greater in households with guns.

* Youth considering suicide report that the intention can pass quickly. But lethality from suicide attempts by firearms is **85%**, compared to 20% by drug overdose or poison.

* Suicide among older adults also increases when there are guns in the home.

* **90%** of youth who use a gun to commit suicide use a gun found in the home.

Youth Suicide in Colorado: Between 2015-2019, **437** Colorado youth and young adults took their own lives using firearms. Even more alarming,

* **17%** of high school aged youth report considering suicide at least once last year.

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

Homicide: The risk of intimate partner violence increases 5 times when a gun is present.

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 2020 study. The decline was nearly **60 percent** in states with the most restrictive laws.

Public Opinion:

- Safe storage has wide bipartisan support: 75% of Americans support requiring gun safes or safety devices.
- A strong majority of Coloradans supported legal repercussions for people who don't comply with safe storage in 2020. Both this bill and the Reporting Lost and Stolen Guns had **71%** support; six in 10 Republicans supported each of the bills.

Conclusion:

Homicides, 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. We can support both gun safety and the second amendment.

What Does the Proposed Colorado Law Require?

- Gun owners are required to either store their weapons so that they are not accessible to juveniles or prohibited persons. Misdemeanors for violations.
- Gun dealers must provide locking devices and post notices about violations.