



News Release

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Colorado Ceasefire applauds Progress! Making Colorado Safer by enacting four new gun safety bills “Today, we save many lives from preventable violence.”

Denver, Colo., April 28, 2023—For Immediate Release—Today at the Colorado State Capitol, Governor Jared Polis signed a suite of four gun safety bills meant to address numerous aspects of gun safety and gun industry accountability. Afterwards, bill sponsors were joined by gun violence prevention advocates with a gathering on the Colorado Capitol west steps recognizing the progress in making Colorado safer.

“We can save lives from preventable violence. Let’s join together for the America we love without fear of not returning home from an Independence Day Parade on Main Street,” said Eileen McCarron, co-founder and president of the 23-year-old Colorado Ceasefire, the longest-running gun violence prevention organization in the state.

“This milestone of gun violence prevention legislation marks several years of tireless efforts by Colorado Ceasefire with fellow members of the Colorado Coalition Against Gun Violence (CCAGV), Giffords/Giffords Gun Owners for Safety, Brady United Against Gun Violence, Colorado Faith Communities United Against Gun Violence (CFCU), Everytown for Gun Safety (with Moms Demand Action/Students Demand Action), Blue Rising, PTA and the League of Women Voters and so many others in our shared mission,” McCarron noted.

(Editor’s Notes: 1/A fact sheet summarizing these bills is located at the end of this news release; 2/Bios of the speakers affiliated with each piece of legislation follows the fact sheet; 3/We have included three photos with this news release, all photo credit Patricia B Smith/Colorado Ceasefire. Video is available upon request; please contact Pat Smith .)

Each bill addresses a critical element in the complex issue of gun violence and accessibility to weapons by teens and other prohibited persons, and the ability to prevent violence by suicide or an impetuous act of violence:

- **SB168: Jessi’s Law: Gun Industry Liability** brings this industry into alignment with medicine, pharmaceuticals, construction, and other industries. There is no reason an industry that manufactures and markets a lethal product should have exclusions from liability not enjoyed by other businesses.
—More—
- **SB169: Raising the Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase.** Actually, Colorado currently has no minimum age for purchase of handguns or long guns. This law establishes the age of 21 for both.

- **SB170: Expanding the Extreme Risk Protection Orders Law (ERPO/Red Flag Law) petitions.** In addition to family members and law enforcement, those on the front lines of public health, safety and education may recognize the warning signs before gun violence occurs and will now be able to petition for an ERPO. Each side of the political divide cites mental health as a key factor in gun violence prevention. *ERPOs are one of the best options for protecting people in behavioral crises and their communities from preventable harm.*
- **HB1219: Waiting Period for Gun Purchase.** Preventing suicide, vengeful domestic violence, or a planned mass shooting are key elements in adding a three-day waiting period before the actual transfer of a purchased firearm. Together with SB169, this can save many more lives from an irreversible bad decision.

“There is certainly no one solution to this problem of gun violence,” said Tom Mauser, father of Columbine victim Daniel Mauser and a long-time Ceasefire board member. “We must continuously look for loopholes and weaknesses in our existing laws and fix them. That’s what these bills do,” he said.

“Our cherished individual freedoms should not translate into increased instances of the killing or maiming of innocent people. What was once an American dream of opportunity has been transformed by ongoing and preventable shootings into a nightmare of fear at the grocery store and at school. Freedom and responsibility are tandem priorities to protect our individual right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. The bills signed today are another four steps on the campaign to achieve that cherished American ideal and a Safer Colorado.” said McCarron.

Colorado Ceasefire has been working for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws and began advocating for an Extreme Risk law in 2016, which became effective January 1, 2020. Ceasefire worked closely with members of Colorado’s General Assembly to enact six gun reform measures in 2021.

—More—



Colorado Faith Communities
United to End Gun Violence

Fact Sheet

Colorado Gun Violence Prevention Legislation Anticipated Signing April 28, 2023

For more information, please contact

SB23 168/169/170
HB23-1219

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SB23-168 | Immunity Repeal

Sponsors: Sens. Sonya Jaquez Lewis and Chris Kolker, Reps. Javier Mabrey and Jennifer Parenti

Repeals Colorado's severe gun industry immunity law protecting gun manufacturers, dealers, and distributors.

- Currently, individuals who sue over egregious actions are held liable for the defendant's legal costs.
- Santa Fe High School (Texas 2018; 10 fatally shot) shooting might have been prevented if Lucky Gunner (an online dealer) had been stopped by the Phillips' Aurora Theater lawsuit.
- There is still a federal PLCAA law (Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms), but it is less onerous than Colorado's current law.

SB23-169 | Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase

Sponsors: Sens. Kyle Mullica and Jessie Danielson, Reps. Monica Duran and Eliza Hamrick

Establishes a minimum age of 21 for purchase of both handguns and long guns (rifles and shotguns).

- Current federal regulations: age 21 for handgun; 18 for long gun.
- Six of nine worst mass shootings (2018 to 2022) were by persons 21 years old and younger.
- 18- to 20-year-olds comprise four percent of population, but 17 percent of homicide offenders.¹
- States that raised the legal age experienced a nine percent decline in suicides for 18- to 20-year-olds, and a decrease in unintentional deaths.²

SB23-170 | Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs, aka Red Flag Law)

Sponsors: Sens. Tom Sullivan and Stephen Fenberg, Reps. Jennifer Bacon and Mike Weissman

Expands the list of petitioners to include Colorado's attorney general, district attorneys, educators, health care and mental health care professionals.

- Family members, law enforcement and the newly added petitioners may petition the court to remove access to firearms for a person who is dangerous to oneself or others.
- Nineteen other states and the District of Columbia also have ERPO laws.

HB23-1219 | Waiting Periods

Sponsors: Reps. Meg Froelich and Judy Amabile, Sens. Tom Sullivan and Chris Hansen

Establishes a three-day waiting period between the time a background check begins and the time of completion of the purchase or transfer.

- Nine states have waiting periods from three to 10 days.
- Cooling off period reduces handgun homicides by 17 percent and gun suicides by six percent.³
- Seventy-five percent of Americans support a waiting period for all guns.⁴

Sources

1. Giffords: Data from FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports.
2. Webster et al., "Association between youth focused firearm laws and youth suicide," JAMA (295)5 594-601.
3. Luca et al., "Handgun waiting periods reduce gun deaths," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, V. 114 No. 46 (Fall 2017).
4. Quinnipiac University Poll, 2/20/18.

April 28, 2023 Speakers | Colorado Gun Violence Prevention Laws Signed
SB23-168/169/170 and HB23-1219
West Steps, Colorado State Capitol
Press Conference 10 a.m.

Tom Mauser (first speaker/emcee) lost his son Daniel in the Columbine Massacre on April 20, 1999. Ten days after that event, he spoke at a protest of the NRA, and has actively worked since then so that no other family has the same experience. He is a board member and spokesperson for Colorado Ceasefire.

SB23-168 Jessi's Law: Gun Violence Victims Access to Judicial system sponsors:

Sen. Sonya Jaquez Lewis: SD17 – Longmont
Rep. Javier Mabrey: HD1 - Denver
Rep. Jennifer Parenti: HD19 – Erie
Sen. Chris Kolker: SD16 – Littleton (unable to attend)

Lonnie and Sandy Phillips lost their daughter Jessica Ghawi in the Aurora Theater massacre. Since that time they have vocal advocates for stronger gun laws. They sued Lucky Gunner for supplying thousands of rounds of ammunition to the Aurora shooter, and were charged with \$260,000 in Lucky Gunner's legal bills. They founded Survivors' Empowered to assist other survivors of gun violence work through their trauma.

SB23-169 Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase sponsors:

Sen. Jessie Danielson: SD22 – Wheat Ridge
Sen. Kyle Mullica: SD24 – Northglenn (unsure of availability)
House Majority Leader Monica Duran: HD23 – Wheat Ridge (possible)
Rep. Eliza Hamrick: HD61 - Centennial

Gracie and Clara Taub are the founders and co-presidents of Denver East High School Students Demand Action, and have worked with their organization members to testify and advocate for common-sense gun legislation, as well as fighting to change the normalcy of gun violence.

SB23-170 ERPO Expansion sponsors:

Sen. Tom Sullivan: SD27 – Centennial (unsure)
Senate President Stephen Fenberg: SD18 – Boulder (possible)
Rep. Jennifer Bacon: HD7 – Denver (possible)
Rep. Mike Weissman: HD37 – Aurora (possible)

Angela Ferrell-Zabala serves as the first ever Executive Director of Moms Demand Action where she is responsible for leading and growing the largest grassroots network in the gun violence prevention space. Angela has been with the organization since 2019 leading its movement building work overseeing grassroots organizing, external, cultural and corporate engagement, national partnerships and programming.

HB23-1219 Waiting Period sponsors:

Rep. Meg Froelich: HD3 – Englewood
Sen. Tom Sullivan: SD27 – Centennial (unsure of availability)
Sen. Chris Hansen: SD31 - Denver
Rep. Judy Amabile: HD49 – Boulder (unable to attend)

Kallie Leyba is a first grade teacher, currently serving as the Executive Director of American Federation of Teachers Colorado. Kallie is married to Kiki, a teacher at Columbine High school who escaped gunfire in 1999 when 13 people were killed. Eleven years later their son Lucas experienced a shooting at his middle school. As a teacher, Kallie knows it's her responsibility to continue to advocate for the safety of all students and the communities in which they live.

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