



Via Electronic Mail

Monday, February 12, 2023

Governor Polis

governorpolis@state.co.us

Speaker of the House Julie McCluskie

julie.mccluskie.house@coleg.gov

President of the Senate Stephen Fenberg

stephen.fenberg.senate@coleg.gov

House Judiciary Committee Chair Mike Weissman

mike.weissman.house@coleg.gov

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Julie Gonzales

julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov

CC: Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees

Re: Proposed Legislation's Unconstitutional Violation of Second Amendment Rights

Dear Governor Polis, Madam Speaker, Mr. President and Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees,

On behalf of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, I am writing to issue a formal demand for the immediate cease and desist of further proceedings concerning SB24-131. If enacted, this bill imposes egregious restrictions on the lawful keeping and bearing of firearms, thus violating the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in Colorado.

SB24-131, as currently proposed, seeks to prohibit the carrying or possession of firearms in various public locations and events, including parks, recreational facilities, community centers, public gatherings, hospitals, places of worship, sporting events, amusement parks, and educational institutions. Additionally, it imposes severe penalties for violations thereof, including fines and potential criminal charges.

We vehemently oppose SB24-131 on the grounds that it flagrantly violates the fundamental right to keep and bear arms as enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article II, § 13 of the Colorado Constitution.

Furthermore, this proposed legislation runs counter to recent Supreme Court precedents, including *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, which affirm the individual's right to possess firearms for self-defense and personal security inside **AND** outside of the home.

It is imperative to recognize that the provisions outlined in SB24-131 directly threaten the liberties and safety of law-abiding citizens. By unlawfully restricting the exercise of Second Amendment rights, this bill undermines the principles of freedom and individual sovereignty upon which our nation was founded.

Furthermore, we draw attention to the ongoing legal challenges against similar legislation in other jurisdictions, indicating the unconstitutionality of blanket firearm bans in public spaces. The recent Preliminary Injunction issued by Judge Cormac Carney in *May v. Bonta* underscores the judiciary's stance against such overreaching measures.

Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to Judge Carney's scathing description of California's "sensitive spaces" law. In it, he describes the law as "*repugnant to the Second Amendment and openly defiant of the Supreme Court.*"

In light of these legal precedents, we demand that all efforts to advance SB24-131 cease and desist and be immediately terminated. Failure to comply with this demand will compel Rocky Mountain Gun Owners to pursue all available legal remedies to protect the constitutional rights of RMGO Members and peaceable Colorado citizens.

We anticipate your prompt acknowledgment of this cease and desist demand and expect confirmation of compliance within ten business days from the receipt of this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taylor D. Rhodes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Taylor D. Rhodes
Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Gun Owners