



**Commissioner Claire Levy Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 169 Increasing Minimum Age To Purchase Firearms
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (Senate), Colorado General Assembly**

Good evening, Chair Coleman, members of the Committee. I am Claire Levy, Boulder County Commissioner and former state legislator, testifying in support of SB 169.

In both of my roles as a county commissioner and a state legislator, I have taken a strong position of supporting policy to prevent gun violence.

Thanks to the authority granted in Senate Bill 21-256, myself and Commissioner Marta Loachamin and former Commissioner Matt Jones unanimously passed five local Boulder County ordinances to protect our constituents from violence and death caused by firearms. Our 2022-2 ordinance raised the age to purchase firearms in Boulder County from 18 to 21 years of age. As elected officials, we took that step because our community demanded action and because policy raising the age to purchase and possess firearms is proven to reduce gun violence and death. Very simply, gun laws save lives.

As you have heard and will hear today, impulse control, judgement, and long-ranging planning are among the last areas of our brains to fully mature, and are the skills and behaviors necessary to prevent humans from making irreversible and devastating decisions.

Data shows us that 18 to 20 year olds disproportionately commit gun homicides and research reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that state laws raising the minimum legal age to purchase firearms to 21 years of age were associated with a nine percent decline in rates of firearm suicides among 18-to-20-year-olds. To let that sink in for a moment, young people's lives were saved by enacting legislation like that before you today.

Boulder County will continue to support local, state, and federal action to reduce gun violence and death in our communities. Thank you to sponsors Senator Mullica and Senator Danielson for bringing this legislation forward, and to supporters of this bill in this building and in our communities for continuing efforts to ensure we can all live safe lives, free from gun violence.

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