



**Commissioner Marta Loachamin Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 170 Extreme Risk Protection Order Petitions
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (Senate), Colorado General Assembly**

Boulder County is testifying in support of Senate Bill 170.

As a former educator and now county commissioner, I have strongly supported gun violence prevention policy and legislation at the local, state, and federal level.

In 2022, my colleagues and I passed five local ordinances to prevent violence and death in our communities through the authority granted in Senate Bill 21-256. Today I am here before you to express Boulder County's support, including the support of the Boulder County Sheriff, for the updated and expanded authorities granted in Senate Bill 170.

As you are well aware and have heard today, the United States suffers from an epidemic of gun violence, more than 1 million lives lost since 1990. The US tops all other high wealth countries for gun-related homicides, with 23 times the number of gun-related homicides as Australia. The United States also suffers from more gun-related suicides than any other country in the world- accounting for 40 percent of the world's gun-related suicides, though the US represents just four percent of the world's population. And the US is the only country in the world where the number of civilian firearms outnumbers the population. Quite simply, access to firearms in the United States, especially among people at risk of harming themselves or others, increases violence and death in our state.

Our neighbors and friends across our communities in Boulder County have lost their lives to gun violence. Two years ago, ten people were murdered at a Boulder King Soopers supermarket while working and buying food for themselves and their families.

Emergency Risk Protection Orders are a valuable tool for protecting the lives of our neighbors, our clients, and our constituents from suicide, homicide, and mass shootings and we respectfully request your YES vote today.

Thank you to sponsors Senator Sullivan and Senate President Fenberg for your leadership on this critical piece of legislation.

March 2023