

4 March 2013

Colorado General Assembly, Senate State Affairs Committee

House Bill 13-1226, Concerning Concealed Carry on Campus, Institution of Higher Education

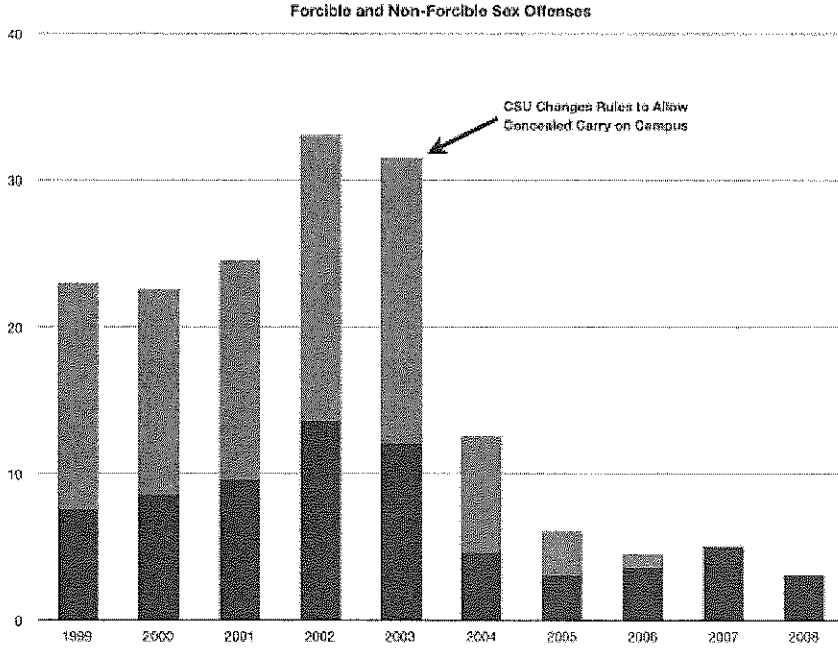
Testimony from Lisa G Spear

My name is Lisa Spear, and I am a resident of unincorporated Arapahoe County. I am here to testify AGAINST this bill, HB13-1226.

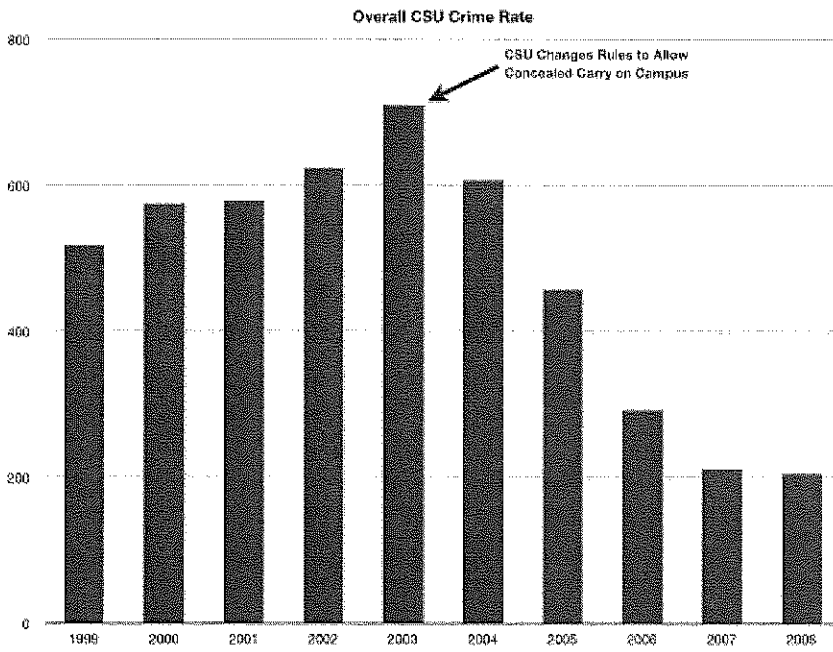
This bill would infringe on my fundamental, God-given right to protect myself when I am on the campus of any Colorado state college or university. As we saw at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University, gun-free zones merely make the campus open spaces and the buildings on the campus shooting galleries for those who intend to harm others. Security officers cannot be everywhere. We each have the right and obligation to be our own "first responders", and to defend ourselves against attack, not only in our homes, but wherever we are.

By implementing this legislation, the state assumes the responsibility for my personal protection, and the protection of every other individual on that school property. As criminals by definition do not obey the law, this legislation puts the majority of the people on the campuses at a severe disadvantage, and in mortal danger. I do not have confidence that the state can protect all of the law abiding citizens on a campus from a well-armed (albeit illegally armed) perpetrator. This legislation opens the state up to huge liability for the injuries sustained by persons on a campus who have been denied the right to protect and defend themselves from criminals who do not abide by the law.

Those with conceal carry permits have gone through criminal background checks and have had to prove their ability to properly use a gun in order to secure their permits. They have already demonstrated their intention to abide by the law. This legislation would make criminals of law-abiding citizens for no good reason. It is not the person who lawfully owns a gun and who has proven their personal responsibility by going through the conceal carry permitting process who we need to worry about.



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