

Good afternoon. My name is Tina Francone and I am the owner and senior firearms instructor at Straightforward Shooting in Littleton, CO.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill thirteen ten forty eight ☺

This legislation is important to me for a couple of reasons. As a small business owner AND a woman, I spend as much time at my place of work as I do at home (sometimes more☺). A lot of that time, I'm alone. As a firearms instructor, safety is important, and personal safety from a criminal attack is even more important. It's hard enough to be a small business owner - safety at the workplace is one more thing to worry about. And that's not just **MY** safety. As a small business owner, I am concerned for my employees. Small business owners like me consider their employees 'extended family' – I consider, and I don't think I'm alone in this, one of my responsibilities as an employer is to provide a safe, clean workplace. I **want** my employees protected and to have the ability to protect themselves while at work. Legislation like HB thirteen ten forty eight puts the law on the side of the law abiding citizen, not the criminal.

And it's not just me. People think, well, you're a shooting instructor with guns and everything, for sure no one would attack you. As a firearms instructor, sometimes that means I'm outdoors in remote locations. Lots of times, I'm alone. That's not any different than the chiropractor that I was talking to the other day. She told me that she was **scared to death** of guns. But, she wanted to take some training because she, as a chiropractor, was more often than not, alone in her office. Sometimes early in the morning, sometimes late at night – and she's afraid for her personal safety. She said, I'm afraid that someone would take a look at me (she's a little bitty thing), and think that I'm an easy target. I don't want to be a statistic, I want to be able to defend myself and feel safe.

You see, that's the real importance of HB thirteen ten forty eight. Under current law, if you shoot someone in your business **you** are presumed guilty. This bill extends the right to use deadly force against an intruder. It

would change the presumption - the person **attacking or intruding** is guilty.

Why is that important to me? HB thirteen ten forty eight puts the law on my side not on the criminal's side. As a woman, I don't have the physical ability to defend myself against a male attacker. Much less two of them. The ability to level that playing field is critical. Restricting my access or use of a firearm in self defense is the REAL WAR ON WOMEN. HB thirteen ten forty eight puts the law on my side not on the criminal's side.

Concealed handgun laws reduce violent crime for two reasons: First they reduce the number of attempted crimes because criminals are uncertain which potential victims can defend themselves. Second, victims who have guns are in a much better position to defend themselves – 1998 interview with John R. Lott, JR.

According to the FBI, violent crime offenses in the United States have been falling since 2007.

Large drops in overall violent crimes immediately after right-to-carry laws are passed.

Law abiding citizens exercising their 2nd amendment right include gunman in theatre in San Antonio (off duty police officer) and mall shooting in Oregon (22 year old man).