

Hello, My name is Dana Keech. I would like to thank the chair person and this committee for the opportunity to speak to you today as it is a privilege to do so.

My wife and I are 36 year residents of Aurora in Arapahoe county.

I would like to start by saying that the recent gun violence acts are inexcusable. There is no sane explanation for these acts. Something needs to be done to remove the threat from the mentally disturbed and the criminals that mean to do harm.

I am not a supporter for guns as a solution to the problems we face in our current society. Neither am I a supporter for guns to be removed from the law abiding, God fearing, citizens of our state and country. Unless I can be assured that guns and weapons will be removed from the hands of the mentally disturbed and criminals of our society I cannot support any of the gun control policies currently being debated at this time.

I feel that the only solution to the gun violence problem is to help and deal with those who would do harm, those who are not rational and cannot distinguish between right and wrong.

Making any additional attempts to remove guns, restricting ammunition for guns and restricting magazine sizes for example, from law abiding, God fearing citizens will have an opposite effect on gun violence.

Take Chicago Illinois for example. That city has probably the strongest gun restrictions on it's citizens that I have read about in this country. Yet, gun violence is at an all time high high there. You see, the citizens are not allowed to posses guns in Chicago (with some minor change in 2010) but the criminal element continue to bring in guns from surrounding areas. I personally, from what I have read, would not want to live in Chicago where only the limited law enforcement and the criminals have access to guns. Strict gun laws there isn't working, in fact I feel it has had an opposite effect.

There are already enough gun laws currently (in my opinion) Maybe some tweaking in the background check is necessary, but I don't see that is being debated right now. Hopefully some debate can occur in the future.

I wish it was not necessary to make comments on the second amendment and the "rights of the citizens to bear arms." But, it is a right. By taking away or chipping away at these rights, I cannot help but to believe things will only get worse.

I wish it were possible to see the intent of a person (beforehand) who uses a gun and kills or injures people. Unfortunately only God can see such intent. My heart and prayers go out to all of the families affected by these terrible acts. Please keep in mind, that these acts were committed by individuals who would be considered mentally incapable at the very least. The guns used were not the problem, the mentally disturbed individuals were.

I will close by saying that my wish is for all debate here to be rational in nature. Although emotion will inevitably become a factor when making such important decisions, there must be calm and deliberate solutions found for the gun violence issue. I pray that this decision making body asks God how to make things better and solve these problems. Please ask Him to help as HE is the only one with all of the answers.

God Bless Colorado and God Bless America! Thank you for listening.