



Fwd: SB 196

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Mon, Mar 4, 2013 at 6:36 PM

Can you print? How do we enter it into testimony?

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Garnett, Stanley" <sgarnett@bouldercounty.org>
Date: March 4, 2013, 5:26:16 PM MST
To: "kjersten.forseth@gmail.com" <kjersten.forseth@gmail.com>
Subject: SB 196

I appreciate the opportunity to offer comments about SB 196, a bill that I strongly support. I apologize that my schedule does not permit me to be present in person, but Senator Morse, or anyone else, is free to read this statement into the record (or distributed by email or any other means available).

SB 196 is a common sense effort to hold the manufacturers of assault weaponry liable for the harm caused by their products. This is equivalent to the common sense responsibility that the law places on other manufacturers of products. Colorado law has long recognized that it is reasonable to expect manufacturers to share the societal costs suffered from the harm caused by their the manufacture, distribution and sale of their products. S.B. 196 is a well balanced approach and respects the rights of gun owners through the exceptions for self-defense, defense of property or defense of another and creates workable mechanisms for reasonable liability to be imposed.

I have formed my position in support of SB 196 not only as an elected District Attorney but as a lawyer with extensive private practice experience. For 22 years, as the managing partner of a large firm's litigation practice I represented large companies in litigation, including manufacturers of all kinds of products (except firearms) who daily managed their businesses to minimize the possible harm that could be caused by their products. They did this not only because they tried to be ethical business people, but because they were aware that if they failed to do so the law would require them to share the economic cost to society through reasonable determinations of liability and damages awards. There is no reason that manufacturers of assault weapons should not have to face the same risks of liability that other businesses face (and find ways to accommodate) for the harm caused by their products.

This is a common sense bill, consistent with the pragmatic approach to solving real problems that has been the Colorado tradition since 1876.

Anyone who has questions is welcome to email me at this address or call my cell or office phone.

Stan Garnett

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