

Written testimony submitted to the State, Civic, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee

In opposition to HB23-1050 Protection of Business from Unlawful Entry

Submitted by Rionda Osman, Boulder CO

The bill extends the right to use deadly physical force against an intruder by owners, managers, and employees of a business. This bill has no requirement to verify that the intruder is, in fact, committing a crime, or that the intruder is, in fact, unknown or on the premises with the intent to commit a crime. The intruder need not threaten violence to be subject to summary execution by the business person.

Recent research (see below) indicates that Stand Your Ground laws are associated with increased numbers of homicides. The authors assessed in “41 US states, SYG laws were associated with an 8% to 11% national increase in monthly rates of homicide and firearm homicide. State-level increases in homicide and firearm homicide rates reached 10% or higher for many Southern states, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana.”

I urge you to reject this bill in the interests of the health and safety of Colorado’s citizens. Our places of business are not video games. Those wielding firearms must be responsible. They must maintain composure and seek less violent ends to confrontations or potential confrontations. They could even back away and call for police help. They can do all those things and still have the right to self-defense.

Rionda Osman, 2 February 2023

Analysis of “Stand Your Ground” Self-defense Laws and Statewide Rates of Homicides and Firearm Homicides

Michelle Degli Esposti, PhD; Douglas J. Wiebe, PhD; Antonio Gasparrini, PhD; David K. Humphreys, PhD

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