

Richard Shapiro
Brunswick

Dear committee members,

My name is Richard Shapiro, from Brunswick, and I am testifying in opposition to LD 759.

The bill re-criminalizes behavior that is already criminally negligent and constitutes endangering the welfare of a child (I apologize if I have not correctly stated the name of the crime). It seeks to stack penalties if a child is injured with a firearm, as opposed to any other dangerous item.

And, as it seeks to fill a "gap" that doesn't exist, and opens the door to over-reaching regulation of how our citizens store our firearms on our own properties (but not knives, swords, explosives, poisons, set traps, etc.), one has to question the political purpose behind the legislation.

I believe it is an attempt to weaponize hoplophobia in an attempt to symbolize the gun, and this state's hundreds of thousands of gun owners, as uniquely dangerous and worthy of being micro-managed. It is a step towards culturally anathematizing firearm ownership, and as such, it is unworthy of consideration.