

When defeat is good

By Marian Frank

The 2017 Colorado legislative session has adjourned and all the “bad” gun bills were defeated. Many thanks to the members of the Rapid Response Team for the calls, e-mails or hearings they attended to oppose these bills. We need more members to strengthen this work. Please read this, and if you are willing to get involved, contact Marian Frank at g123sawyer@gmail.com, 303-355-2348 or Mike Earnest at mpearnest@comcast.net, 303-355-7436.

The following information is taken from a Ceasefire Colorado e-mail.

The defeated Bills were:

Guns in Schools. One of these bills was purported to be a training bill for teachers to learn gun safety but was really a back door scheme to arm teachers and other school staff.

Concealed Carry Permits for Military under the age of 21. The military doesn’t allow enlisted men and women to carry guns when on leave and they can’t take any weapons with them when they are discharged. Also, those under 21 may not legally purchase a handgun in Colorado.

Repeal High Capacity Magazine Ban. There has been an attempt to repeal this law for 4 years.

Stand Your Ground in Business Location. This bill would give someone in a business location the right to shoot an intruder and claim self-defense. The same bill has been defeated for 12 years.

Permitless Conceal Carry. This bill, which has been defeated for 12 years, would have permitted a gun

owner to “conceal carry” the gun anywhere without a permit to do so.

Unfortunately our work is not done this year. There are Federal Bills for which we need to be concerned. Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have offered bills to make “silencers” easier to obtain. These bills would pre-empt state laws and are touted as hearing protection. Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) strongly opposes these bills because of the danger of not knowing where the active shooter is. It also would disable Denver’s Shotspotter system which enables the police to identify the location of the active shooter.

Both the Senate and House have bills Mandating Concealed Carry that would require that every state honor concealed carry permits from other states. The House version even would allow someone denied a permit in Colorado to get one in a state that doesn’t require residency, such as Utah, and would allow individuals to take their guns into K-12 schools. These concealed gun owners could also sue law officers, state or other political divisions, if they are arrested or detained for carrying a weapon.

There is a Federal bill, HR 1478 Gun Violence Research Act, which CFCU supports. This bill would repeal the provision that, in practice, prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from sponsoring research on gun violence. Without sponsorship, no funds are allocated to study the impact of gun violence on our society.

When these bills are up for vote, we’ll be in touch with the Rapid Response Team.