

**House Judiciary**

**02/18/2026 01:30 PM**

**HB26-1009 Colorado Mandatory Lethality Assessment Act**

**Typed Text of Testimony Submitted**

<b>Name, Position, Representing</b>	<b>Typed Text of Testimony</b>
carol friefeld  For  themselves	<p>I am a retired pediatrician, formerly employed for 25 years by Clinica Family Health Center, which serves the low income communities of both Boulder and Adams County. Prior to that, I worked for Denver Health, at the Eastside Community Health Center, which serves low income families in the Five Points area.</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to support HB26-1009. As a pediatrician, I have known mothers and children who are victims of domestic violence. It is wrenching to see the injuries, and the fear that these women and children live with. Although fortunately none of these patients were murdered, I know that in 2024, 46 women and children were murdered in Colorado during domestic violence incidents. Firearms accounted for 70% of those murders (1). Having peace officers who respond to domestic violence calls routinely asking about the presence of firearms in the house, threats of firearm use, and actual firearm use against the victim, is just common sense. I'm actually surprised that such questions are not already standard protocol.</p> <p>I hope you will pass this bill through committee without hesitation.</p> <p>Respectfully yours,</p> <p>Carol Siegel Friefeld, MD, MSPH</p>

	<p>(1) 2025 Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Report</p>
<p>Carolyn Shepherd For themselves</p>	<p>HB26-1009 Colorado Mandatory Lethality Assessment</p> <p>I am in support of HB26-1009. I am a physician and I worked in primary care for 40 years in Colorado. I cared for families who were devastated by domestic violence homicides and attempted homicides.</p> <p>According to 2025 Colorado Domestic Fatality Review Board, homicides in Colorado fell to their lowest level in five years but domestic violence fatalities rose by more than one-third in 2024. This means that nearly 20% of homicides were related to domestic violence. In addition to the 54 Coloradoans that were murdered by their domestic partners, there were eight “collateral deaths” of people in the proximity at the time of the violence. In 2024 all eight were children. At least half of the 2024 Colorado domestic violence homicide perpetrators had a prior domestic violence record with law enforcement. Many of these deaths were preventable.</p> <p>Assuring that law enforcement professionals make a careful assessment of lethality before leaving the scene of reported domestic partner conflict calls will help with identifying situations where measures such as Extreme Risk Protection Orders are indicated. Please vote yes on HB26-1009.</p> <p>Thank you, Carolyn Shepherd 2160 Dartmouth Ave Boulder, CO carolynmshepherd@gmail.com</p>

