Date of Testimony: February 9th, 2018 Bill Number: Bill HB2042 Testimony by: Elizabeth Lehner

In Opposition Testimony: Written Only

Dear Chairman Bud Estes and the members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Concealed Carry bill, HB2042.

I work at a school that has students ages 4 through adults. Lowering the age of consent to age 18 could seriously impact our student body and faculty. Putting weapons in the hands of teenagers, when suicide rates peak near that age, means putting weapons in the hands of people who have no concern for their life or the lives of others, or who are struggling with unstable decision making skills. This will also bring weapons into our high schools and onto our campuses at a higher percentage rate, leading to a higher show-and-tell and theft rate.

There have been enough victims of gun violence in our schools. This opens the opportunity to be more where I work and where our children should feel safe. There is no reason a teenager should be handling a weapon.

I ask that you oppose HB2042. Lowering the age of concealed carry to 18 is too great a risk for our young people, our families, and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Lehner <u>ellener@gmail.com</u> <u>913-636-9338</u>