

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2025

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

We write to you today requesting that your administration take immediate action to work with the state legislature to address public safety in our communities and make much needed reforms to the criminal justice system in the State of Colorado. It was heartbreaking and frustrating this week to see our home state once again draw national scrutiny for failed soft-on-crime policies that prioritize the well-being of criminals over ordinary Coloradans.

On September 8th, the Weld County Sheriff's Office issued a press release warning the general public of the imminent release of a potential danger to the community due to recently enacted reforms to state competency law¹. While your public reaction² of shock and outrage certainly echoed the concerns of countless Coloradans, we could not help but respond with bewilderment – as it was your signature of HB24-1034 that has allowed this policy to put our communities at risk³.

This embarrassing episode is regrettably no longer unique for our citizens. Over the past year, our state has unfortunately become a poster child for the havoc that soft-on-crime policies cause. Whether it's the takeover of apartments by Tren De Aragua⁴ (now a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization) or the failure to prosecute convicted sex offender Solomon Galligan for kidnapping a child in broad daylight⁵, Colorado has time and time again drawn nationwide ire for its public safety failures.

It's not just anecdotes and cherry-picked stories – the raw data from the past several years continue to hammer home the need for a robust and common-sense approach to drive down crime. In a recent annual report Colorado was ranked as the second most dangerous state in the entire nation⁶. Our state capital of Denver was ranked as one of the top 10 cities with the highest crime rate, beating out even Washington

¹ <https://x.com/WeldSheriff/status/1965099687280566325>

² <https://x.com/jaredpolis/status/1965520892777333033>

³ <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1034>

⁴ <https://www.axios.com/local/denver/2024/08/29/venezuelan-gang-aurora-tren-de-aragua-apartments>

⁵ <https://nypost.com/2025/08/11/us-news/trans-sex-offender-escapes-prosecution-after-trying-to-kidnap-child-during-elementary-school-recess/>

⁶ <https://wpstage.denvergazette.com/?p=142806>

D.C⁷. Crimes like shoplifting and car theft still remain substantially higher than they were prior to the pandemic⁸.

Coloradans know the truth – that despite the meager improvements in some crime rates from their record highs in 2022 – they still don’t feel safe in our state. According to a recent survey, 54% of Coloradans reported not feeling safe – worse than the national average⁹. The same survey found that 65% of Coloradans worry about violent crime on a daily basis, and that 65% of Coloradans also worry about property crime on a daily basis. Our constituents deserve better than incremental change, lip service, and broken promises when it comes to public safety – they deserve robust and common-sense approaches that prioritize the protection of our communities.

Given Coloradans’ clear concerns about crime, we would have welcomed you naming public safety as one of the subjects of consideration in the special legislative session you called for August 21, 2025¹⁰. We were instead disappointed to see you sign bills from the special session that raised taxes on small businesses and continued to increase spending on healthcare for illegal immigrants¹¹.

As members of Colorado’s delegation to the House of Representatives, we are proud to have worked with our colleagues to pass meaningful legislation that actually addresses public safety concerns of our constituents – from the Laken Riley Act which seeks to protect Americans from illegal immigrants who commit crimes to the HALT Fentanyl Act which increases criminal penalties for fentanyl dealers to the reconciliation package which includes billions to support state and local law enforcement.

Despite progress made at the federal level to improve public safety for all Americans, there must be substantial reforms made to Colorado’s criminal justice system in order to give Coloradans the protection and peace of mind they deserve. Governor Polis, we need change and we need it fast, which is why we are urging you to consider calling a special legislative session for the sole purpose of making substantial improvements to public safety policy in Colorado. Our constituents and all families across the state are entitled to nothing less.

In this special legislative session, we strongly urge you to prioritize bills such as HB25-1072 that restrict the use of personal recognizance bonds for violent, repeat offenders that pose a danger to communities in addition to reforming or outright repealing numerous bills that you have signed into law during your tenure as Governor that have contributed to the current poor state of public safety in Colorado. These bills include but are not limited to:

- HB24-1034, which allows for the rapid release of potential dangers to Colorado communities if they are found by a court to not be competent to stand trial
- HB19-1225, which eliminated cash bail for certain offenses

⁷ <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5470828-fbi-data-violent-crime-cities/>

⁸ <https://www.common senseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/crime-and-public-safety/colorado-crime-and-auroras-experience-with-auto-theft->

⁹ <https://wpstage.denvergazette.com/?p=237335>

¹⁰ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kx5-WNwRYMD7K33IJQEaSm6RsMUBb0X/view>

¹¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/colorado-increased-taxes-businesses-special-session-artificial-intelligence-regulation/>

- SB21-71 which eliminated cash bail for juveniles who commit delinquent acts including those SB21-271 which reduced sentencing for some felonies and misdemeanor offenses, including for repeat retail theft and some auto thefts
- HB21-1209 which expanded expedited parole consideration reserved for juveniles to individuals convicted as adults, such cop killer Raul Gomez-Garcia
- SB21-131 which limits Colorado law enforcement officers from sharing certain information with federal counterparts on illegal immigrants who are reasonably suspected of a crime
- SB25-276 which imposes draconian penalties on law enforcement officers who share certain information with federal counterparts on illegal immigrants who are reasonably suspected of a crime

Governor Polis, you have previously expressed your determination to improve Colorado's public safety standing¹². We stand ready to extend a helping hand and ask you to back up your words with concrete actions and help us deliver a safer state for all Coloradans.

Sincerely,



Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



Jeff Crank
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress

¹² <https://www.denver7.com/news/politics/colorado-governor-wants-state-to-become-among-safest-in-us>