

Submitter: Barbara Dallas
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
To Senate Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary:

I am writing in support of SB243, which combines several important gun safety measures that will make our communities safer and reduce gun violence. Rapid fire gun devices, including bump stocks and Glock switches turn legal semi-automatic guns into lethal weapons and should be banned.

A 72-hour waiting period is a reasonable way to interrupt the impulsiveness of a potential suicide and allow a cooling off period. Oregon has one of the highest gun suicide rates and this would help save lives by creating a buffer period between having suicidal thoughts and taking the fatal step of actual suicide. I lost a brother-in-law to gun suicide several years ago so this is personal to me. In addition, making improvements to the current ERPO law may be the type of intervention that could have saved his life.

I also support raising the age of assault weapon purchase to 21, as statistics show that a disproportionate number of shootings are committed by individuals between the ages of 18-21.

Finally, I support SB 1015, which would make funding for community violence prevention programs permanent. In my career as a medical social worker working with trauma patients, I saw firsthand how our violence intervention program made an impact. Statistics showed that the program reduced recidivism, retaliation and re-injury.

Thank you for your attention and efforts to enact sensible gun laws that will make a difference for all Oregonians in reducing deaths by firearms.

Sincerely,
Barbara Dallas, retired medical social worker