

Submitter: Amie Wexler  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243  
Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Amie Wexler, I am the State Lead for the largest grassroots gun violence prevention organization in Oregon, Moms Demand Action. I am a parent, a lawyer, and an advocate. I have been involved in this movement since 2015 and I have testified in front of this committee numerous times. I am unable to testify in person today, but I appreciate you taking the time to take my written testimony and more importantly, I appreciate you taking action to protect Oregonians from gun violence.

SB 243 contains numerous provisions that will protect Oregonians from gun violence. Today I will address the portion that will raise the minimum age to purchase an assault-style weapon from 18 to 21. Too often mass shooters are young men under the age of 21 who decide impulsively to purchase an assault-style weapon and use it against others. The shooter at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown was only 20 years old. The shooter at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde had just turned 18. The shooter at the Safeway in Bend, Oregon was 20 years old. The shooter at Marjorie Stoneman Douglass High School in Parkland, Florida was 19 years old when he purchased his gun and murdered 17 people. Florida has since raised the age to purchase these weapons to 21. Brains are not fully developed at age 18 and owning a weapon of war is not something that should be taken lightly by anyone, certainly not someone who is potentially going to act impulsively once they own it.

Raising the minimum age to purchase an assault style weapon could prevent young people in Oregon from committing mass shootings.. I ask that you take immediate action to move this bill forward and we start the important work of protecting Oregonians from the horror and violence of mass shootings.