

Submitter:

Barbara Campbell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am an Oregonian and health care provider writing in support of Senate Bill 243, a gun violence reduction bill with omnibus provisions including requiring a 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, raising the age to purchase and possess semi-automatic rifles to 21, banning rapid fire devices, and authorizing public entities controlling public buildings to adopt regulations limiting concealed handgun licensees' affirmative defense for the crime of firearm possession in a public building. All these provisions form a cohesive whole that will increase Oregonians' safety while maintaining responsible access to firearms. As a provider of behavioral health and addictions treatment, I would like to address the waiting period provision in particular. I've seen far too many people traumatized by gun violence and the threat of gun violence. This includes people struggling with suicidal thoughts whose quick access to firearms can turn an impulse to stop pain into lethal action causing traumatic, unbearable loss for all who love them. As you know, Oregon has one of the country's highest firearm suicide rates and 77% of gun deaths in the state are suicides. It's pretty simple; passage of a required 72-hour waiting period to purchase a firearm would save lives. Please advance and pass SB 243, including this provision, to make Oregonians safer.

Sincerely,

Barbara Campbell, Ph.D

Clinical Associate Professor

Oregon Health & Science University