

Submitter: Shelley Nasby  
On Behalf Of: SB243  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I oppose all components of SB 243, particularly the barriers it would create for youth to be able to participate in hunting and shooting activities. Please consider that an age restriction would limit youth from participating in person family activities, school events and learning from a young age how to safely shoot and handle firearms. I started hunting at the age of 16 and my daughter at the age of 12. It has been the center of our family gatherings and vacations and deeply value our rights to hunt and carry firearms. I believe that one of the reasons that my daughter is a responsible adult is her early education and safety training that came by being around and understanding the responsibility of firearms. I also believe that our efforts to educate youth, through hunter education classes and other activities has created a responsible generation of firearm owners, who are eager to pass on their great respect for hunting, conservation and handling of firearms.

While all four components of SB 243 are problematic, the age restriction language contained in the bill would negatively affect our youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters. Restricting possession of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns fails to take into account the standard uses of semi-automatic shotguns in waterfowl, upland bird, and turkey hunting, as well as being a primary firearm of high school and collegiate sport shooting teams.

Additionally, due to the language stipulating that a firearm could only be transferred to a minor from a parent or guardian, firearms training and educational courses, such as the shotgun skills courses presented by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, would no longer be able to provide temporary firearms to students under 21. This is a travesty, not only in the breaking of a strong value set and tradition, but also of our second amendment rights.

The age restriction language in SB 243 creates numerous barriers to entry for new youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters who want to participate in hunting and shooting activities and therefore I strongly oppose the bill. We need more responsible people in our world, we can't create them by creating more restrictions and regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views. Shelley Nasby