

## Kevin Fecteau, Opposition to SB243

As a law-abiding gun owner, I strongly oppose Oregon SB243 and any proposed amendments because I believe they are an unnecessary measure that will not prevent criminals from obtaining firearms and committing further crimes. The original bill mandates a study on the efficiency of criminal background checks for firearm transfers, but even if this study leads to improvements in the background check system, it fails to address the primary methods through which criminals acquire guns. Research, including a 2019 survey by the Department of Justice, found that 43% of criminals had bought their firearms on the black market, 6% acquired them via theft, and 10% made a retail purchase, with only 0.8% purchasing from a gun show, indicating that most criminals bypass legal channels where background checks are conducted ([Department of Justice Survey on How Criminals Obtain Guns](#)). This data underscores that enhancing background check efficiency for legal purchases will have minimal impact on criminal access to firearms.

The proposed amendments, if implemented, would exacerbate these concerns. A 72-hour waiting period would mean that after purchasing a firearm, the buyer must wait 72 hours before taking possession, intended as a cooling-off period to reduce impulsive acts of violence, such as suicides or domestic violence. However, this could delay law-abiding citizens like myself from obtaining firearms for immediate self-defense, especially in urgent situations, while criminals who obtain guns illegally—through theft, straw purchases, or black market deals—will not be affected by such a waiting period. Restrictions on rapid fire activators, such as bump stocks, aim to reduce the potential for mass shootings by limiting modifications that allow semi-automatic firearms to fire more rapidly, almost like automatic weapons. While this might reduce the lethality of certain incidents, it could limit options for gun owners who use such devices for legitimate purposes, like recreational shooting at ranges, without addressing how criminals, who often use illegally obtained firearms, would be impacted.

A significant concern is that SB243, while ostensibly just a study, could lead to recommendations for new regulations that impose unfunded mandates on gun shops, potentially forcing many to close. Small, family-owned gun dealers, which constitute a significant portion of the over 2,000 federally licensed firearms dealers in Oregon, may not have the financial capacity to comply with additional regulatory burdens. As of July 2021, there were 2,152 FFLs in Oregon, indicating a substantial number of small businesses that could be affected ([Orchid LLC: All 50 States Ranked by Number of FFLs](#)). Without state funding to support these changes, the cost of compliance could be prohibitive, especially for dealers already operating on thin margins.

Moreover, ATF's firearms trace data for Oregon in 2022 shows that the average time-to-crime for recovered firearms was 8.53 years, meaning, on average, the guns recovered in crimes in Oregon were purchased 8.53 years prior ([ATF Firearms Trace Data for Oregon - 2022](#)). This long duration suggests that many crime guns are not from recent purchases but from older ones, possibly before the implementation of universal background checks in 2015, and have been in circulation for years before being stolen or otherwise obtained by criminals. For example, 2022 minus 8.53 years is approximately 2013.47, indicating many were purchased around 2013, before Oregon's universal background check law, which required all transfers to go through an FFL for a background check in 2015 ([Oregon Firearms Laws](#)). This long time-to-crime indicates

that improving the efficiency of background checks for new purchases won't affect these existing guns, which are already in circulation and can be stolen or sold illegally.

Studies on how criminals obtain guns, such as an ongoing study of Chicago gang members, found that only a trivial percentage obtained them by direct purchase from a store, with most coming from friends, family, or illegal sources, reinforcing that background checks and waiting periods won't address the majority of criminal gun acquisition methods ([How dangerous people get their guns in America](#)). In Oregon, a study found that guns reported lost or stolen are much more prone to be used in crimes, with stolen guns having nearly nine times the likelihood, indicating that theft is a significant source, which background check efficiency and waiting periods won't prevent ([Lost and Stolen Guns Are More Likely to Be Used in Crimes, Study Finds](#)). In summary, as a gun owner, my opposition to Oregon SB243 centers on its ineffectiveness in stopping criminals from committing further crimes, given that most criminals obtain guns through illegal means that background checks and proposed amendments won't address. The study's focus on efficiency, combined with amendments like a 72-hour waiting period and restrictions on rapid fire activators, may lead to regulations affecting law-abiding citizens, and the risk of unfunded mandates could force many of the over 2,000 gun shops in Oregon to close, reducing access and harming local economies. You should fund efforts to focus on enforcing existing laws and combating illegal gun trafficking.

Respectfully,  
Kevin Fecteau