

Submitter: Tiffany Filter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

My name is Tiffany Filter.

I am a wife, mother, sister, daughter, in-law, aunt, niece and cousin. I am a first grade teacher at Lake Grove Elementary, my two girls attend Sunset Primary in West Linn, our neighborhood school, and my husband teaches at West Linn High School. After living and teaching overseas in India and Vletnam for 7 years, my husband and I specifically picked this area to reside and work because of the reputation it holds with regards to safety. However, with the knowledge that we now have and the frequency in which we talk to others about gun violence, we are more nervous about an incident involving our children and guns than we ever were living in Asia. In Oregon, we have the highest firearm fatality rate on the West Coast (Sen Reynolds Newsletter March 21).

I am strongly advocating that we raise the age to 21 for individuals to buy an assault weapon or semi-automatic. It does not make any sense that 18 year olds have access to these, kids still in high schools when they are not allowed to legally drink or purchase a hand gun. Research shows that individuals aged 18-to-20 years old commit gun homicides at a rate nearly 3 times greater than adults 21 and over. Make all of this 21. Period.

I am also advocating that Oregon bans the sale and possession of rapid fire devices like bump stocks and Glock switches. Nothing good comes from these devices. If Alabama can outlaw them, so can Oregon. Period.

Lastly, with mental health needs increasing drastically since 2020 and long waitlists for patients to be seen for anything, I am advocating for a mandatory 72-hour waiting period before any firearm purchase. 77% of gun deaths in the state are suicides. With a waiting period in place, people who are suicidal are more likely to share their plans with others or not gain access to a gun in the rise of their emotions. QPR Training is something that both LO and WLWV school districts have invested in for teachers and community members. Give these programs a chance to work with a mandatory waiting period. Let's have less death in our state. Period.

It is frightening to lead a Lock Down drill in your own classroom knowing that you might have to follow through on this one day, looking around for items that can be used as weapons to protect yourself and your students. It is even scarier hearing from your children about their Lock Down drill knowing that one day you might not see them come home from school. The measures that have been passed already are having an impact, but there are still too many preventable deaths and gun violence

related incidents taking place. Oregon needs to take a firmer stand. Period.

Putting laws and measures in place like this does not mean I am anti-gun. I am wanting Oregon to be a safer place. Period.