

Submitter:

CLAYTON FILTER

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

My name is Clayton Filter, and I am the father of two young daughters, aged 8 and 6, and a teacher at West Linn High School. I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 243 because I believe it is essential to protect the safety and well-being of our children. Oregon has one of the highest firearm fatality rates on the West Coast, and I believe it's time for stronger measures to reduce gun violence and ensure a safer future for our kids.

One of the most important provisions of SB 243 is the 72-hour mandatory waiting period before purchasing a firearm. Oregon has a high firearm suicide rate, with 77% of gun deaths in the state being suicides. Studies show that a waiting period can significantly reduce these tragic deaths by giving individuals a chance to seek help or reconsider their impulsive decisions. Implementing this waiting period would help save lives and provide a vital safeguard for those struggling with mental health challenges.

Additionally, I strongly support raising the minimum age for purchasing semi-automatic rifles to 21. Research has shown that individuals aged 18 to 20 commit gun homicides at nearly three times the rate of those 21 and older. It makes no sense that 18-year-olds, often still in high school, have access to assault weapons while they cannot legally purchase a handgun. Raising the age to 21 across the board would help reduce gun violence, particularly among young adults.

I also strongly support the ban on rapid-fire devices such as bump stocks and Glock switches. These devices allow semi-automatic firearms to fire at nearly fully automatic rates, making them incredibly dangerous. These devices have no legitimate purpose in civilian hands, and states like Alabama have already successfully banned them. Oregon can and should follow suit to prevent these deadly modifications from circulating in our communities.

As a father and a teacher, I fear for the safety of my children when they go to school. The thought of a lockdown drill turning into a real-life situation is terrifying, and I know I am not alone in this concern. We must act now to create a safer environment for our children, and passing SB 243 is a step in the right direction. Please support this bill to help reduce preventable deaths and make Oregon a safer place for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clayton Filter