

Submitter: Kenny Moreland
On Behalf Of: Myself my children and the entire state of Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Opposition Testimony on SB 243

While I acknowledge that there are several troubling aspects of SB 243, I am particularly concerned with the age restriction language contained in the bill, which would have a detrimental impact on youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters.

Restricting the possession of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns fails to consider the role these firearms play in standard hunting practices. Semi-automatic shotguns are commonly used in waterfowl, upland bird, and turkey hunting, all of which are integral to our state's outdoor traditions. These shotguns also serve as the primary firearms for high school and collegiate sport shooting teams. By limiting access to these firearms, SB 243 would unnecessarily hinder young people's ability to engage in these activities.

Moreover, the provision stipulating that a firearm could only be transferred to a minor by a parent or guardian would create additional barriers for youth seeking firearms training and education. Programs like the shotgun skills courses offered by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife rely on being able to provide temporary firearms to students under the age of 21. Under this proposed restriction, such educational opportunities would be severely limited, restricting access to crucial training for young people interested in hunting and shooting sports.

The age restriction language in SB 243 creates unnecessary and significant barriers for youth and young adults who wish to engage in hunting and shooting activities. It would ultimately limit opportunities for learning, personal development, and participation in these important traditions.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB 243.