

Submitter:

Matthew Chaisson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I oppose this bill

#### Section 1 - Misleading Language and Waiting Periods

I oppose Senate Bill 243-1, starting with its use of the term “Gun Dealer.” This label is a biased misnomer that unfairly tarnishes the reputation of Oregon’s 1,800 federally licensed firearms brokers—legitimate small businesses—not “gun runners” or villains. Such language misleads the public and undermines their credibility.

Moreover, imposing a 72-hour waiting period for legal firearm transfers is punitive and ineffective. The Oregon State Police (OSP) already face backlogs, often delaying transfers for weeks or months. Adding 72 hours only exacerbates this, infringing on Oregonians’ constitutional right to purchase firearms without reducing crime. For instance, Kurt Cobain’s suicide in Washington—despite a mandatory five-day wait—shows waiting periods don’t prevent such tragedies. This measure burdens law-abiding citizens without saving lives. Where is your study on how a 72 hour wait will make a difference in gun violence.

#### Section 2 - Rapid Fire Activators

The bill’s focus on rapid fire activators lacks justification. No recorded crimes in Oregon involve these devices, making any restriction speculative rather than evidence-based. These activators don’t convert firearms to full-auto (already illegal); each shot requires deliberate user action.

#### Sections 3 & 4 - Age Restrictions

Raising the age for firearm ownership to 21 endangers young Oregonians. Many move out at 18 or 19, seeking independence, yet this restriction denies them the legal means to protect themselves in their homes. This leaves vulnerable young adults—prime targets for criminals—defenseless, contradicting the state’s duty to support their safety and rights.

#### Sections 7 & 8 - Public Area Restrictions]

Expanding restrictions to “grounds adjacent to” public buildings and “within public grounds” unfairly penalizes law-abiding Oregonians. Simply driving into a public parking lot or dropping someone at an airport could turn a legal concealed or open carry into a crime. This forces citizens to choose between personal safety and risking prosecution for routine actions—like a wrong turn—while criminals ignore such “gun-free zones” altogether. These amendments punish the lawful, not the lawless.

SB 243-1 overreaches, targeting legal gun owners with baseless restrictions while failing to address actual crime. I urge you to reject this bill and protect Oregonians' rights and safety instead. Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew Chaisson  
The Dalles