

Submitter: Monique Clark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

My children grew up hunting, learning respect for firearms and the safety of their use. My children and I continue to hunt today, and I sit as board secretary in the Josephine County chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association. However, once again bills that directly affect law abiding gun owners and hunters, especially those who have gone through the process to conceal carry legally are being targeted instead of the focus being directed towards those who do not care about any of these rules. The drug dealers and criminals do not care about rules against the transfer of firearms or where they are prohibited. The passage of SB 243 we have a direct effect on young hunters, who are being taught in a supportive and safe environment, and one that focuses on the value and virtue of family and doing the right thing.

While all four components of SB 243 are problematic, the age restriction language contained in the bill would negatively affect our youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters. Restricting possession of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns fails to take into account the standard uses of semi-automatic shotguns in waterfowl, upland bird, and turkey hunting, as well as being a primary firearm of high school and collegiate sport shooting teams.

Additionally, due to the language stipulating that a firearm could only be transferred to a minor from a parent or guardian, firearms training and educational courses, such as the shotgun skills courses presented by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, would no longer be able to provide temporary firearms to students under 21.

The age restriction language in SB 243 creates numerous barriers to entry for new youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters who want to participate in hunting and shooting activities and therefore I strongly oppose the bill.