

Submitter: Kate Shannon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill SB 243-1. As a mother and a woman living in Oregon, my right to self-defense is not just theoretical—it is a critical necessity. This bill threatens to strip away my ability to protect myself and my children from real threats, leaving us vulnerable in a time when personal safety is more important than ever.

Women are often the targets of violent crime, and we deserve the right to defend ourselves with the most effective tools available. Restricting lawful gun ownership does not stop criminals from acquiring firearms—it only disarms law-abiding citizens like me. The ability to own and carry a firearm is not just about sport or recreation; it is about survival. This bill would make it harder for women like me to exercise our constitutional right to self-defense, putting our safety and our children's safety at risk.

Furthermore, SB 243-1 does nothing to address the real issue—criminals who obtain and use firearms illegally. Instead of targeting those who follow the law, legislators should focus on enforcing existing laws, prosecuting violent offenders, and addressing the root causes of crime. More restrictions on responsible gun owners do not equate to increased public safety; they only create more obstacles for those of us who just want to protect our families.

I urge you to reject SB 243-1 and instead pursue policies that empower and protect women, rather than making us more defenseless. Please consider the voices of mothers, daughters, and women across Oregon who rely on their Second Amendment rights for security. Thank you for your time and consideration.