

Submitter: Carol Manstrom  
On Behalf Of: Victims and survivors of gun tragedies  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

To Senate Committee on Judiciary: My name is Carol Manstrom. I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT for HB 243 & Amendments. I am retired from a 26-year career in law enforcement, as a Parole and Probation Officer in Lane County. I carried a gun on the job, every day. And, I am also a gun owner. It is my understanding that the American Academy of Pediatrics defines Adolescence as being ages 11 through 21. There is a critical intersection between adolescence and guns! Suicides, school shootings, shootings at parties, at community gatherings and on the street, and gang shootings occur at this intersection. At this intersection, guns kill! In 2017, my precious 18-year-old teenage son, Will, tragically died by firearm suicide. On the night that Will died, he was experiencing a severe mental health crisis, AND, there was a fully loaded, unsecured and easily accessible gun in the house where Will was staying that night. Will was a Senior in high school at that time, on the Varsity Track, Cross Country and Chess teams. He was looking forward to attending Oregon State University with a major in Engineering. I know in my heart, that Will did not want to die. But being a teenager can be tough, and teenagers can be VERY impulsive! And, teenagers often do not disclose their innermost feelings, even to those close to them. There is a well-known slogan which you may have heard -- it goes like this: "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle that you know nothing about." That slogan is so true. Currently, I am employed for a non-profit organization which serves homeless and in-crisis youth ages 11 to 24. I can tell you, first-hand, that our youth are struggling...they are fighting battles that we often know nothing about! With Senate Bill 243 & Amendments in place, someone in Oregon will live to see another day, because an adolescent under the age of 21 will not be able to purchase a military-style rifle! I am respectfully requesting that you pass Senate Bill 243 & Amendments. Thank you. Carol Manstrom