

Submitter:

Gerald Freeman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I have written testimony already in opposition of the original SB696, SB697, SB698 and SB429 individually. I am deeply disappointed by the last-minute submission of Senate Bill 243, a move that is both dishonest and sneaky. This bill exemplifies yet another "bait and switch" tactic undermining the integrity of the legislative process and the trust of the public. The original bill purported to require the Department of State Police to study the efficiency of firearm transfer criminal background checks—a seemingly benign proposal. However, we always suspected this was a facade, with the real intentions of the bill revealed only at the eleventh hour.

The amendments to SB 243 expose a long list of restrictions that bear no resemblance to the bill's original language. Many of these provisions appear in other anti-gun bills (SB696, SB697, SB698 and SB429) soon to be considered, further illustrating the deceptive "gut and stuff" strategy. This tactic is designed to minimize public input, denying citizens the opportunity to thoroughly analyze and respond to the legislation. It is a disservice to the democratic process and an affront to the people who elected their representatives in good faith.

It is imperative that we reject such underhanded maneuvers and demand a process that respects the voices and rights of all Oregonians. I urge everyone to stand against this bill and the dishonest practices it represents.

Thank you for considering this testimony.