

Submitter: John Mead

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I'm writing in opposition to SB 243. The bill as a whole is extremely problematic, however 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. Semi-automatic rifles are commonly used for many hunting applications, despite common media depiction as "assault weapons." Once again, this bill feels like it unnecessarily targets law-abiding youth seeking to enjoy an outdoor sport.

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.