

Submitter: KD Parman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary,

My name is Dr. KD Parman, and I am the Principal of Roosevelt High School in North Portland. I am here to support SB243. These are critical policies that will prevent firearm tragedies and save lives.

I have been an educator for 22 years. 18 of those years, I have served the North Portland community as a teacher, coach, and now as Principal. I have seen, first hand, the negative impact on our community because of the far too easy access to guns. I have seen, first hand, the negative impact on our community because of the far too easy access to guns.

We have seen an increase in gun related deaths in North Portland since returning from the Pandemic.

The summer of 2021, we had our first student murdered by gun violence. We had three more students shots during the 2021-22 school year. One was shot at night in our back parking lot. Luckily, all three students survived.

In March of 2023, three young men were murdered on a neighborhood street in North Portland at 12:30 in the afternoon. They were shot more than 50 times. One victim attended Roosevelt.

In August of 2023, one of our students was shot six times. Luckily - he survived. Another student was shot four times in the spring of 2024. He lost an eye, but again, luckily he survived. And, just this past weekend, we had a student shot in the head and he is currently in the hospital fighting for his life.

We have had multiple families need to relocate because their houses were being shot up over and over again. Most of these drive by shootings were done by youth.

I, unfortunately, have lost count of the recent graduates that have been murdered or injured by gun violence. I do know our Black students are disproportionately impacted by these shootings.

Each of these events is tragic, and the emotional toll on our community - staff, students, and parents - keeps adding up. Students, staff, and community members

ask what we can do to help slow the gun violence. That's why I'm here. Banning rapid fire devices, raising the minimum age to purchase military style rifles, implementing a 72 hour waiting period and limiting guns in sensitive places are all steps in the right direction. This is why I support SB243.

There are too many guns out there and kids have far too easy access to them. Teenagers are posing with guns and other weapons in photos and videos on social media. Guns are in our communities and in the hands of our youth. Without intervention, these guns will continue to move through our schools and communities and cause devastating consequences for our kids.

Raising the age for military style rifles will reduce gun deaths among our young people. Banning rapid fire devices will reduce the number of fatalities when shootings occur.

We need to prioritize long term committed solutions that ensure kids do not have access to guns. SB243 is one way to ensure to get guns away from our students so they can focus on what teenagers should be focused on - learning.

Thank you.