

Submitter:

Brian Johnston

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243. While I understand the intention behind some provisions of the bill, I believe that it represents an overreach that infringes upon the rights of law-abiding citizens and unnecessarily restricts the ability of individuals to legally purchase, possess, and carry firearms.

1. 72-Hour Waiting Period for Firearm Transfers:

The provision in SB 243 that imposes a mandatory 72-hour waiting period between a gun dealer's request for a background check and the transfer of a firearm is unnecessary and burdensome. Current law already provides adequate safeguards to ensure that background checks are completed in a timely manner. This waiting period creates unnecessary delays and inconvenience for lawful firearm purchasers, which could disproportionately impact those who rely on their firearms for personal protection or other legitimate purposes.

2. Restrictions on Firearm Possession for Individuals Under 21:

Another concerning aspect of SB 243 is the restriction on firearm possession for individuals under 21. This bill would prohibit adults between the ages of 18 and 20 from possessing firearms, including rifles and shotguns. This is especially problematic given that these individuals are legally allowed to vote, serve in the military, and make other important decisions as adults. Denying them the right to possess firearms is an infringement on their Second Amendment rights and could potentially create unjust hardships for responsible, law-abiding citizens.

3. Expansion of "Public Buildings" Definition:

I am also concerned about the provision that expands the definition of "public buildings" to include the grounds adjacent to these buildings. This provision would place additional restrictions on concealed handgun licensees, undermining the ability of responsible, trained individuals to carry their firearms for self-defense. Moreover, the threat of criminal penalties for carrying on these grounds seems disproportionate and unfair to those who are legally permitted to carry firearms.

While I believe in the importance of ensuring public safety, these provisions go beyond what is necessary and undermine the rights of responsible gun owners. I urge you to oppose SB 243 and work toward policies that protect public safety while also respecting the constitutional rights of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with your constituents who believe in preserving Second Amendment rights and reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Johnston