

# SB243 Omnibus Testimony

My name is Mario Welliver, and I am a Sophomore currently attending Lake Oswego High School, as well as the President of our school's Student Demand Action chapter. Although I do not let the fear of guns control my life, gun violence has made its way into my life time and time again, like many other Oregonians. I remember as a toddler, hearing my parents discuss a tragic incident of domestic violence, where one of our family friends was shot in the eye by her boyfriend. I remember 4th grade, being confused and scared as my friend's mother looked at my friend, his sister, and me in the party room of the Lloyd Center Ice Rink, as us and other ice skaters huddled close together during a lockdown. I remember in 7th grade, crying to myself during a lockdown, from the fear that my sisters at the high school across the street were in danger of their lives. By passing Senate Bill 243, we as a state can further gun safety laws that minimize the fear, presence, and occurrences of shootings in our daily lives. By passing this bill, critical laws for gun safety, such as raising the age of purchasing a handgun to 21, or outlawing the sale and possession of rapid fire devices, will create an environment in our state where toddlers won't have to try and comprehend the hardships of gun violence. From the experiences I have endured as a student and child growing up during a time of growing gun violence, I am confident passing senate bill 243 will contribute to a safer place for all children across the state.