

Submitter: Joni Delman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
SB243 Omnibus Letter of Support

My name is Joni Delman, and I am a Senior at Lake Oswego High School in Lake Oswego, Oregon. I am a current member of my school's chapter of Students Demand Action.

Given your position as standing lawmakers, it should be no secret that the gun violence epidemic in America has spun out of control. As a student, I often look to and hope that my government leaders will choose to take the steps to protect its people. Students should not live in the unfortunate reality that a potential shooting could take place in their schools; they should not be hiding in their classrooms or practicing multiple lockdown drills a year. 77% of gun deaths in Oregon are by gun suicide. Gun violence in Oregon is costly as well – around \$8.1 billion each year, of which \$89.1 million is paid by taxpayers. You have the power to decrease these rates with initiatives like Senate Bill 243. By passing this bill, gun manufacturers who exploit gaps in the law to sell rapid-fire devices will be blocked. By passing this bill, people will have to be 21 to purchase and possess semiautomatic rifles, although 18 - 20 year olds will still be able to purchase and possess certain firearms for hunting and recreation. By passing this bill, a buffer period will be mandated before any firearm purchase, creating a crucial waiting period between temporary suicidal ideation and firearm access. The passing of Senate Bill 243 will foster a safer place for not only students but all individuals in Oregon.