

Submitter: Heather Wick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I fully support all of the gun violence prevention laws included in SB243, but I will focus on two of them in this testimony.

Oregon has one of the country's highest firearm suicide rates – 77% of gun deaths in the state are suicides. Implementing a mandatory 72-hour waiting period before firearm purchases will create a buffer between temporary suicidal ideation and firearm access. In other states with similar laws, studies show that waiting periods save lives.

This bill would also ban rapid-fire devices, which effectively convert semi-automatic weapons into machine guns. No responsible gun owner needs this ability. These devices make our communities less safe for both citizens and law-enforcement officers.

There is widespread support for the ban of these dangerous devices. This support is not limited to one political party. After a shooter used bump stocks to fire more than 1000 rounds in 11 minutes, killing 60 people and injuring more than 400 others at the Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas in 2017, an NPR-Ipsos poll revealed that 82% of Americans favored a ban on these deadly devices.

Please support SB243 to reduce all forms of gun violence in Oregon. Thank you.