

Submitter: Keith Bentley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I oppose SB 243 – Senate Omnibus and the following content thereof,

SB 696

SB 697

SB 429

SB 698

With due respect to our court of appeals the Constitutionality of pending anti-gun legislation is still questionable and not settled yet.

Considering the controversial nature of these new anti-gun laws I feel our legislators should consider waiting for a final determination from both the State and the US Supreme courts before enacting laws that would violate the rights of Oregonians and US citizens.

Rapid Fire Devices SB 696

Opposition

- Criminals, not law-abiding gun owners, misuse these devices – The overwhelming majority of gun owners do not use bump stocks or other devices for criminal activity. Restricting their sale punishes responsible citizens rather than criminals who already ignore gun laws.

- Existing laws already prohibit machine guns and illegal modifications – Fully automatic firearms have been heavily regulated under the National Firearms Act (NFA) since 1934.

- Possessing a Glock switch without proper licensing is already a felony.

- This bill criminalizes lawful ownership – The vast majority of these devices are owned legally by gun enthusiasts, collectors, and competition shooters. Rather than targeting law-abiding citizens, enforcement should focus on illegal possession and use by criminals.

Raise the Age SB 697

Opposition

- 18-year-olds are legally adults with constitutional rights – At 18, Americans can vote, enlist in the military, enter into contracts, and be tried as adults in court.

Denying them their Second Amendment rights is inconsistent with other legal responsibilities.

- This unfairly targets law-abiding young adults – Most 18-to-20-year-olds who legally purchase firearms do so for self-defense, hunting, or sport shooting, not crime. Arbitrarily raising the age only restricts responsible citizens.
- Criminals don't follow age restrictions – Those committing gun homicides are already breaking existing laws. Raising the age won't deter crime but will disarm young adults who may need a firearm for self-defense, especially young women facing threats.

#### Waiting Periods (was SB 429)

##### Opposition

- A waiting period violates the right to self-defense – Law-abiding citizens, particularly women facing domestic violence threats, should not be forced to wait for protection.
- Suicide prevention requires mental health solutions, not delays on gun purchases, Suicide is a mental health crisis, not a gun issue. Funding mental health services, crisis intervention, and outreach programs would be far more effective.
- Waiting periods don't stop criminals – Criminals don't legally purchase firearms. A waiting period only restricts those who follow the law, leaving them vulnerable in emergencies.

#### Allow Local Governments to Prohibit Guns on Municipal Property (was SB 698)

##### Opposition

- Gun-free zones do not stop criminals – Violent criminals and mass shooters ignore signs and laws. Disarming law-abiding citizens only creates soft targets for bad actors. 94% of mass killings happen in Gun Free Zones (GFZ).
- Concealed carry permit holders are the most law-abiding citizens – Studies show CCW holders are less likely to commit crimes than police officers. This bill only disarms responsible citizens while doing nothing to stop real threats.
- Self-defense rights shouldn't change based on location – If a person is legally allowed to carry a firearm for self-defense in public, they should not be stripped of that right simply because they enter a government building.

##### Overall Takeaway

These bills do not improve public safety but instead restrict law-abiding citizens' rights while criminals remain unaffected. Instead of imposing new gun control measures, Oregon should focus on:

- ?? Criminal accountability – Enforce existing laws against violent criminals rather than creating new restrictions that impact responsible gun owners.
- ?? Mental health solutions – Address suicide and violence