

Submitter: Chloe Harris
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Chloe, and I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed measure requiring the Department of State Police to study the efficiency of firearm transfer criminal background checks. While the intent behind this measure may be to enhance public safety, in reality, it poses significant challenges that Oregon is ill-equipped to handle and threatens the rights of law-abiding citizens like myself.

As a single mother of a young daughter, my ability to lawfully carry a firearm is not just a right but a necessity. I have personally graduated from a reserve law enforcement academy, am pursuing my bachelor's degree in psychology, and have taken numerous criminal justice courses studying human behavior, use of force, and the distinction between social aggression and asocial violence. Additionally, I have worked in collaboration with organizations in the firearms industry, assisted victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, and trained in self-defense, including jiu-jitsu. These experiences have reinforced my understanding of the importance of self-protection, particularly in an environment where law enforcement is stretched thin, and crime is on the rise.

Oregon is already struggling to regulate and enforce its current firearm laws effectively. Meanwhile, the state has formerly decriminalized drugs, leading to an increase in fentanyl use and other dangerous substances, which have transformed my hometown into a criminal oasis. Local businesses are being burglarized, the homeless population is rising at an alarming rate, and shootings have become a weekly occurrence in our community. This measure will do nothing to deter violent criminals who, by definition, do not follow the law but will instead create further obstacles for law-abiding citizens seeking to exercise their constitutional right to self-defense.

Rather than focusing on redundant bureaucratic studies, Oregon should prioritize enforcing existing laws and addressing the root causes of crime, such as drug abuse and lack of mental health resources. Burdening law-abiding citizens with additional regulatory barriers only serves to make them more vulnerable while doing nothing to stop those who intend to harm others.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose this measure. The safety of myself, my daughter, and my community depends on the ability of responsible citizens to protect themselves without unnecessary government interference.

Sincerely,
Chloe