

Submitter: Rex Parks Sr
On Behalf Of: Oregon Hunters Association Bend Chapter
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

As a lifelong gun owner and hunter, I first learned to handle firearms at a young age. By the age of 10, I had already passed the classroom and firearm proficiencies needed to secure my Hunter Education Certification. I am a Lifetime Member of the Oregon Hunters Association and the current President of its Bend Chapter.

Our Bend OHA Chapter helps support the Mountain View Trap Club and their competitions. This makes the passage of SB 243 very troubling to me. These high school age participants would no longer be able to compete under the language of this bill, and in fact would most likely halt any future competitions held within the state of Oregon. Many of these student athletes continue their use of shotguns and go on to become proficient hunters and outdoorsmen. While all four components of SB 243 are problematic, the age restriction language contained in the bill would negatively affect our youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters. Restricting possession of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns fails to take into account the standard uses of semi-automatic shotguns in waterfowl, upland bird, and turkey hunting, as well as being a primary firearm of high school and collegiate sport shooting teams.

Additionally, due to the language stipulating that a firearm could only be transferred to a minor from a parent or guardian, firearms training and educational courses, such as the shotgun skills courses presented by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, would no longer be able to provide temporary firearms to students under 21.

The age restriction language in SB 243 creates numerous barriers to entry for new youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters who want to participate in hunting and shooting activities and therefore I strongly oppose the bill.

It is for these reasons I ask for this committee to reject this bill in its entirety.

Thank you for your concern and consideration of my testimony.

Rex E Parks Sr
President, Oregon Hunters Association, Bend Chapter