

March 28, 2025

Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
900 Court St. NE, S-213  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for 72-hour waiting period for firearms purchases in Senate Bill 243**

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write to express my support for Senate Bill (SB) 243, which makes modest additions to the common sense firearms safety provisions adopted by Oregon voters in Measure 114, which was recently *unanimously* upheld by the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Contrary to the quoted statement of one Senator in the media, SB 243 is not a “massive gun control amendment.” Voter-enacted Measure 114 banned sale of magazines that can hold more than ten rounds of ammunition, required universal background checks and the completion of a gun safety course. These requirements have all been upheld by the Court of Appeals. The addition of a 72-hour waiting period and the prohibition on rapid fire activators (aka “bumpstocks”) are modest additions to promote safety for the residents of Oregon.

Combined, the provisions of SB 243 and Measure 114 will make Oregon streets safer, but most importantly, will make Oregon schools safer. School shootings have become sadly commonplace, and in some cases result from lengthy planning by the shooter. But in many cases, the shooter has obtained access to the weapon only the day before, and sometimes on the morning of, the shooting.

Imposing a waiting period is also important in reducing suicides, as discussed in the excellent testimony submitted by Tim Carey of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. As Mr. Carey’s testimony documents, firearms account for over 50% of all suicide deaths, despite the fact that firearms are used in less than 10% of all suicide attempts. A long-term national study of the impact of firearms waiting periods showed that such periods are associated with a 17% reduction in firearms homicides, and a 7-11% reduction in firearms suicides. Luca, M., Malhotra, D., and Poliquin, C., Handgun waiting periods reduce gun deaths, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(46), 12162-12165 (2017).

Oregon communities have long been impacted by the lack of adequate mental health resources. I applaud the legislature for taking some steps toward providing more such resources this session, but we still have a long way to go. Adopting a firearms waiting period is one small and inexpensive step that can help reduce the number of incidents in which an individual in mental health crisis obtains a firearm and takes a life.



## CITY OF MILWAUKIE

Please forward SB 243 with a “do pass” recommendation.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [bateyl@milwaukieoregon.gov](mailto:bateyl@milwaukieoregon.gov)

Lisa M. Batey

Mayor of Milwaukie

cc: Sen. Kathleen Taylor, Rep. Mark Gamba