

Submitter: WAYNE ABBE
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

****To the Members of the Oregon State Senate****

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

****Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 243****

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243, the proposed omnibus gun control legislation currently under consideration. As an Oregon resident and a concerned citizen, I believe this bill infringes upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding individuals without addressing the root causes of violence or enhancing public safety.

The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, a freedom that has been upheld as an individual right by the U.S. Supreme Court. SB 243, from what has been discussed publicly, appears to impose additional restrictions on responsible gun owners. Such measures unfairly target those who follow the law while doing little to deter criminals who, by definition, do not comply with legal mandates.

Moreover, the notion that further gun control will reduce incidents of violence, including suicides, is misguided. Studies and real-world examples consistently show that mental health challenges, not access to firearms, are the primary drivers of such tragedies. Instead of stripping rights from law-abiding citizens, the legislature should prioritize funding and reforming Oregon's mental health system to provide meaningful support to those in crisis.

I am also concerned about the lack of evidence that the provisions in SB 243 will achieve their stated goals. Oregon already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, yet proponents of this bill have not demonstrated how additional regulations will succeed where existing ones have not. Without clear data showing a direct correlation between these new restrictions and improved safety, this legislation risks being an ineffective overreach.

I urge you to consider the voices of your constituents who value their constitutional

freedoms and seek practical solutions over symbolic gestures. I respectfully request that you vote NO on SB 243 and instead focus on policies that address the underlying issues of mental health and criminal behavior without punishing law-abiding Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will represent the best interests of our state and its people.