

Submitter:

Nicholas Scalzone

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

As a gun owning Democrat, and a member of the Gun Owner's Caucus of the Democratic Party of Oregon, I value responsible firearm ownership and support legislation to reduce gun violence that is evidence-based. In its original form as introduced, as simply a study of the background check system used in Oregon, I would be in support of this bill. Running background checks through the state police, while still simply relying on the standard NICS federal background check system, seems like a system that could be streamlined.

However, based on the proposed amendments, I am now opposed to this bill. Unfortunately, these proposals are not well-supported by evidence. In particular, although I don't own any of the so-called "rapid fire devices", I have experience firing weapons equipped with them and found them to be useful for only one purpose - wasting ammunition. I don't believe these devices pose a significant threat, because the moment they are in use the accuracy of the shooter is decreased tremendously, so they are essentially what we call a "range toy" in the gun community.

Additionally, both the ban on "rapid fire devices" and the additional age restrictions proposed have recently been struck down as unconstitutional, and as such will end up costing our state time and money that is desperately needed on more meaningful legislation at this time.

I would love to see lawmakers focus on legislation that seeks to alleviate the root causes of violent crime in our state, rather than constantly attempting to erode our constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Poverty reduction, increased access to mental healthcare (and regular healthcare), and education improvement would all lead to a reduction in the rate of violent crime, while also increasing the quality of life for all Oregonians. Constant gun control proposals by the Democratic party do little, if any, to actually reduce violent crime. They do, however, succeed greatly in losing our party votes that we need in order to pass meaningful legislation that could truly help all Americans live a more prosperous life.