

Submitter: James Loope

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243 (SB 243-1), which proposes several restrictive amendments related to firearms in Oregon. As a staunch supporter of both gun rights and states' rights, I believe that this bill infringes upon the constitutional freedoms of Oregonians and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach.

Firstly, the proposed waiting period for firearm purchases is not only impractical but also undermines the fundamental right of individuals to protect themselves and their families. The requirement for a 72-hour waiting period, along with additional bureaucratic hurdles such as thumbprinting and unique approval numbers, creates unnecessary barriers for law-abiding citizens. These measures do not address the root causes of gun violence but instead penalize responsible gun owners.

Secondly, the prohibition on "rapid fire activators" is an overreach that criminalizes the possession of devices that are legal under federal law. This provision not only infringes on the rights of gun owners but also creates a confusing and inconsistent legal landscape. The exemptions for peace officers and those who have registered machine guns highlight the arbitrary nature of these restrictions.

Thirdly, raising the minimum age for possessing certain firearms to 21 is a misguided attempt to address gun violence. This age restriction disproportionately affects young adults who are otherwise considered responsible enough to vote, serve in the military, and enter into legal contracts. It is essential to recognize that gun ownership is not a partisan issue; individuals across the political spectrum, including those on the left and political minorities, deserve the freedom to arm themselves against potential tyranny.

Furthermore, the expansion of public area restrictions, particularly allowing governing boards to prohibit concealed handguns on school grounds and in public buildings, is a step in the wrong direction. These policies create "gun-free zones" that do not deter criminals but instead leave law-abiding citizens vulnerable. It is crucial to respect the rights of individuals to defend themselves in all public spaces.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against SB 243-1. This bill represents a significant encroachment on the constitutional rights of Oregonians and undermines the principles of states' rights. We must focus on policies that address the underlying causes of violence while preserving the freedoms that are essential to a democratic society. Thank you for your time and consideration.