

Submitter: Jason Meyers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I'm a gun-owning Democrat who supports evidence-based solutions to gun violence. Because of this, I am asking you to oppose Senate Bill 243's -1 amendments. Many of these proposals have previously been struck down by current and former Supreme Courts as unconstitutional, setting us up for an expensive, unwinnable fight when we have more salient issues to consider. Waiting periods have shown mixed results in reducing gun violence, with some studies indicating potential benefits in reducing suicides and homicides, while others find no significant effects. Age restrictions have repeatedly been challenged and overturned on Second Amendment grounds, most recently in January 2025. Bans on rapid-fire activators—colloquially called bump stocks—address a specific concern related to mass shootings, but have limited impact on overall gun violence and face significant legal and enforcement challenges.

The Bill Fails to Address the Root Causes of Gun Violence: Gun violence has two most likely causes: suicidality and ideological extremism (e.g., white supremacy, misogyny, and anti-Semitism). This proposal fails to address these root causes. Suicide prevention, domestic violence intervention, economic opportunity building, and community-based violence reduction programs are effective solutions based on evidence. Alternative approaches, such as community-based violence prevention programs, addressing root causes of violence, and promoting responsible gun ownership, show promise in reducing gun violence while aligning with progressive values.