

Submitter: Michael Berry
On Behalf Of: Myself and future generations
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Opposition to 2025 SB 243 and especially Amendment 1

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I oppose this bill, and I encourage you to kill it in Committee.

The text of the bill as introduced seems benign enough. But, Amendment 1 is sneaky- like a Trojan horse. 23 pages of "stuffing" that comes after the "gutting".

Following is part of a message that I received from the NRA-ILA. I appreciate that they summarized the legislation using clear, simple language. I hope that others may find it as helpful as I do.

"SB 243 previously a placeholder bill directed at studying background checks, has been significantly amended to include elements of four anti-gun bills. This includes: SB 429, imposing a 72-hour waiting period for the purchase of firearms and firearm parts; SB 696, creating the crime of unlawful transport, manufacture, or transfer of a "rapid-fire activator"; SB 697, prohibiting anyone under 21 years of age from possessing firearms, effectively ending youth shooting sports and youth hunting in Oregon; and SB 698, expanding gun-free zones by allowing public entities to adopt policies that prohibit firearms, even for concealed handgun license holders."

I decided to take a look at the index of written testimony that was available online. At that time, I counted roughly 673 pieces of written testimony. Out of that, I counted 55 in Support. That leaves 618 as Opposed. In round numbers, that's 8% in Support and 92% Opposed.

Let's take a look at written testimony submitted for each of the 4 bills that were stuffed in to SB 243 Amendment 1. Here is my tally of written testimony as of noon-ish on 3/28/2025.

SB 429	Waiting Period	Written Testimony Total: 123	In
Support: 2	In Opposition: 121	2% Support	98% Oppose
SB 696	Rapid-Fire Activator	Written Testimony Total: 92	In Support: 1 In
Opposition: 91	1% Support	91% Oppose	
SB 697	Under 21 Rights	Written Testimony Total: 112	In Support: 2 In
Opposition: 110	2% Support	98% Oppose	

SB 698 Gun-Free Zones Written Testimony Total: 123 In
Support: 2 In Opposition: 121 2% Support 98% Oppose

Read the room. The amount of opposition is overwhelming. This comes despite the sneaky back door nature of this "gut and stuff" bill.

Following are my comments specific to Amendment 1.

- WAITING PERIOD. I must acknowledge that a waiting period may help prevent some suicides. But, it would very likely prevent people who need to purchase a firearm for self-protection from being able to purchase one in a timely manner. I think that we should act on the side of caution in favor of continuing to allow mentally mature and mentally healthy individuals to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right to acquire (keep and bear) firearms in a timely manner. Please reject this special waiting period.

- RAPID FIRE ACTIVATORS. Are these not already illegal under federal law? If so- what are we doing here? I can see why good people might want (or even NEED) to exercise their right (assuming these ARE legal on federal level) to possess and use. Why? To be on equal footing with the bad guys. I don't believe the proposed legislation would deter people who intend to acquire "rapid fire activator(s)" for the purpose of using them to commit crimes. Don't hand the advantage to violent criminals.

- FIREARM AGE RESTRICTIONS. If this would indeed effectively end youth shooting sports and youth hunting in Oregon, then I strongly oppose.

- PUBLIC AREA RESTRICTIONS. I believe that we have more than enough restrictions under current law. Is it not true that a large percentage of mass casualty shootings occur in places where the firearms used were prohibited at the time/place they were used?

Again- I encourage you to kill this bill in Committee. Will we be forced to ask for denial of quorum?

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