

Submitter: Leslee Lucas  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am a gun owner. My husband and I have owned 1 or more guns for more than 50 years. I am here to speak for owners across Oregon who, like me, recognize that gun violence prevention legislation is aimed at protecting our families from the toll of physical and emotional trauma and not designed to take away our guns.

I have lived as part of mutually supportive ranching communities in eastern Nevada, the Flathead Valley in Montana where my husband managed a cow/calf ranch, and in Linn County on our own sheep and hay farm where we raised our kids and were 4H leaders. Gun ownership was common. Firearms were used to provide food and recreational hunting and as tools for the protection and management of livestock production. No one, and I mean, no one ever could have imagined a child dying in their own classroom! Nor did any neighbor think to use a rapid fire weapon or a plastic untraceable gun. These painful realities came at the hands of a much altered politicized NRA and a greedy gun manufacturing industry.

Our homeland and democracy has many beloved and honored symbols, from our national flag of stars and stripes, to the bald eagle and Uncle Sam, and even mom's apple pie. But a gun is not, and never can be a symbol of our most basic rights, the "right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". In the name of our children's right to a life not cut short by a firearm, to the liberty to be free from the trauma of community and school violence, to happiness not shadowed by fear, I urge you to vote for SB 234!