

Submitter: Christopher Benz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

This law is misguided, poorly written, and sure to confuse gun issues. It will make things worse rather than better.

- 1.) Vague definitions like "mental illness" (so ADHD? Gender dysphoria ie being transgender? "Trump Derangement Syndrome?") mean gun ownership will not be determined by clear lines drawn for citizens, but by the discretion of police that many Oregon citizens already distrust.
- 2.) The law will create a vague patchwork of areas in which carrying switches from legal and illegal, so that someone may cross the street and accidentally find they've committed a felony. Such convoluted and anti-common sense laws make people distrust the entire government. They lose respect for government, lose respect for laws, and abandon the social contract. I've seen it. Again, I expect police to selectively enforce these vague laws by disproportionately harming political or ethnic minorities who are considered the "bad guys" while turning a blind eye to the MAGA gun crowd. There is plenty of evidence that this is often how policing works.
- 3.) A stupid gun law will absolutely damage already strained relations with Eastern Oregon. Of course people there want to secede. A law like this, clearly written by people with little understanding of gun violence, reinforces the sense that people in Eastern Oregon are not understood or represented by the state's major population centers. It's pointless culture war division when Oregon needs unity.
- 4.) This is completely ineffective. You can drive ten minutes from Portland and buy an out-of-state gun. We saw this with drug decriminalization. Some solutions simply do not work at a state level. If you're the only state in the union with drug decriminalization, addicts will travel from out of state. If you're the only state in the area with weird gun laws, people will simply leave the state to buy guns.

This law is a waste of legislators' time and money. It is not just ineffective, it is counterproductive.