

Submitter: Gregory Bruce
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

To the members of the Oregon State Senate,

I am writing to express my concerns about SB 243. I am by profession a Certified Addiction Mentor. I would like to respectfully remind you, our Senators, that your duty is not to protect us. That, as your constituency, being of sound mind, is our responsibility. It is not your place to play God or think for us. The Willamette Valley, Portland, Salem, and Eugene, do not have the right to think for the rest of us. That attitude is why this State is such a mess.

SB 243 isn't about guns. That's the political hot button you choose to hide behind. SB 243 is actually about running and hiding and abdicating your responsibilities to your constituents. It's about games and smoke and mirrors. SB 243 attempts to make guns the problem so you don't have to deal with the real problems, the ones you've created and they are myriad! People who commit suicide almost always have mental issues of one kind or other. I find it difficult to understand why guns continue to be the tired and worn out smoke screen to hide the real problem. Why are you not treating drugs with the same contempt, or rope or razor blades for that matter. Or Cars. A person with mental health issues could use a car. Why are cars still allowed and driven by youth who are barely 16 year olds. You trust us to purchase and use rope, razor blades and yes, even cars, in a healthy manner. So, I ask you, why are guns so big a deal? They are already highly restricted. More than they ought to be but definitely more than rope, razor blades or cars.

Guns are not evil. No more than rope, razor blades, or bridges. Bridges are a traditional favorite place to commit suicide. Do you plan now to take them all down as well?

Yes, I'm intentionally using sarcasm to make my point. Bridges, rope, razor blades, cars AND guns are tools. They're not inherently evil. They all serve good & legitimate purposes in our lives.

SB 243 does nothing to fix what's broken. You're attempting to hit a target that isn't there. You're playing political games with guns and ignoring the fact that guns aren't the real problem. Guns are the low hanging fruit. They're an easy target andy it keeps you from having do something for your constituency that might actually help.

Please stop wasting your time on guns. Do something courageous and fix something that really needs fixing.

Sincerely,
Gregory Bruce