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On Behalf Of: PCP 41 Jackson Co  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Senate Bill 243 and its sweeping amendments are an alarming attack on my constitutional right to keep and bear arms. The amendment to SB 243 would:

Strip 18-to-20-year-olds of their constitutional right to buy firearms, relegating them to a short list of outdated long guns while banning handguns entirely, leaving young adults defenseless and shattering rural traditions.

Impose a punitive three-day waiting period on firearm purchases, stalling law-abiding citizens desperate for protection—especially victims of abuse or stalking—while piling pointless delays on those already vetted by Oregon’s strict background checks.

Ban unloaded firearms from vast swathes of public buildings, and vague “adjacent grounds,” disarming permit holders, creating soft targets for shooters, and sowing confusion with unclear boundaries.

Turn law-abiding gun owners into criminals overnight by outlawing the possession of commonly used rapid-fire activators—firearm accessories rarely tied to crime—while slamming manufacturers and sellers with felony charges.

But beyond these infringements on your rights, this bill does nothing to address the real issues driving gun deaths—mental health and violent crime.

Between 2019 and 2023, Oregon recorded 3,125 firearm-related deaths. Shockingly, 77% of these were suicides. While Oregon ranks among the worst states for mental health treatment access, we continue to see one of the highest rates of mental illness. Yet, rather than addressing these root causes, SB 243 imposes more restrictions that will do little to stop crime or reduce suicides.