

Submitter: Stewart Mers  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243.

This bill is deeply flawed for several reasons. First and foremost, it is completely ineffective in addressing the core issues related to public safety and gun violence. Rather than improving safety, it simply adds another layer of bureaucracy and government overreach—one that will likely cost Oregon taxpayers a significant and unjustifiable amount of money. At a time when our state is facing a range of pressing issues—from homelessness to rising crime—allocating resources to a study of this nature is not only wasteful, it is irresponsible.

More concerning is the constitutional overreach this bill represents. Oregonians have the right to keep and bear arms, as protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Oregon Constitution. SB 243 is yet another attempt to chip away at these rights under the guise of “efficiency.” The truth is, it’s a slippery slope toward more restrictions and infringements that the majority of Oregonians do not support.

Efforts like this would be far better spent ensuring our current gun laws are properly enforced. We already have robust laws in place to address illegal firearms and criminal misuse. Redirecting resources toward supporting law enforcement and improving the execution of existing legislation would have a much greater impact on public safety.

I urge you to stand with responsible gun owners across the state and oppose Senate Bill 243. Let’s focus on solutions that actually improve safety—not ineffective, expensive, and unconstitutional measures that do nothing to stop criminals and only burden law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stewart Mers