

Submitter: Patricia McQuillin Voss

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

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.

Additionally, the process behind this bill has been an abuse of power. A 23-page amendment with sweeping new gun control measures was dropped just one day before the public hearing—replacing what was originally a half-page study bill. This last-minute maneuver has robbed Oregonians of the transparency and input they deserve, and it's being utilized more and more by unaccountable Democrats.

I urge to reject this bill and focus on what will actually make Oregon safer. We need to tackle the mental health crisis and ensure we are enforcing existing laws to put criminals away—rather than punishing law-abiding citizens.