

SB 697
April 2025

Thank you Chair Prozanski and members of the council for allowing me to share my testimony today.

My name is Candy Yow from Fort Rock, Or. And I am here with Oregon Women for Gun Rights.

In this Bill it states the Department, which stands for the Department to State Police, who will supposedly handle all background checks, for the purchase and transfer of firearms with this new upcoming legislation. How do we know and trust this Department will be ready, able and willing to take on this huge undertaking? So, in other words this bill could pass, with no means of securing our right to purchase, or transfer a firearm in the State of Oregon, which will then put thousands at risk, as well as taking our 2nd Amendment Rights away for hardworking, law-abiding citizens.

I heard a quote on the news this morning **“Right now-You have a women or child being raped every 6 ½ minutes”**. Please let that sink in, this is on national level, but being a Sanctuary State, our statistics would be higher. This got me looking at facts, of young adults and violent crime in ages 12-21. This is the age that is targeted the most, and yet you want to raise the age to 21 to legally own a firearm.

Persons age 12 to 24 comprised: 35% of murder victims, and 49% of serious violent crime victims.

Persons age 18 to 21 were the most likely to experience a serious violent crime,

More than 52% of all rape/sexual assault victims were females younger than 25.

Persons under 25 made up 50% of everyone suffering a serious violent crime and 56% of rape/sexual assault victims.

18-21 is the highest statistics for violent crime, rape, and death. Many have moved out on their own and by raising the legal age to own a firearm to 21, you are leaving them vulnerable and helpless.

Let's Educate. Not Legislate.

So, I respectfully ask you — please consider the real-life consequences of SB 243. Don't leave our young adults defenseless during the years they need protection the most. Let's protect our rights, empower responsible citizens, and focus on real solutions that make our communities safer.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 697. Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

— Candy Yow

