

Submitter: Cody James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB203

I oppose Senate Bill 203, which mandates a study of extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs) by the Judicial Department. While data collection seems neutral, this bill risks paving the way for expanded gun control that threatens Second Amendment rights and due process.

ERPOs already allow firearm seizures based on subjective “risk” assessments, often without immediate hearings. Studying their use could fuel legislation to broaden their scope, disproportionately affecting law-abiding citizens. In 2023, Oregon issued over 200 ERPOs, per the Oregon State Police, yet there’s no evidence they significantly reduce violence—studies like one from UC Davis (2021) show mixed results.

The bill’s vague allowance for “recommendations” invites bias. The judiciary isn’t equipped to assess policy effectiveness, and this could shift focus from mental health solutions to punitive measures. Resources would be better spent addressing root causes, not cataloging a flawed system.

SB 203 may seem benign, but it’s a step toward eroding rights under the guise of safety. I urge you to reject it and prioritize proven, fair alternatives.