

Submitter: Seth Kezar  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

As a federal law enforcement officer charged with upholding the laws of the United States and protecting the public from threats both foreign and domestic, I respectfully submit this statement in strong opposition to the proposed legislation that would prohibit federally licensed firearm dealers from transferring a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver until 72 hours have passed following the initiation of a criminal background check and the receipt of an approval number from the Department of State Police.

While I fully support effective background check systems and reasonable measures to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals, this bill misplaces its focus and will not meaningfully deter or prevent criminal activity. Criminals, by definition, do not follow legal processes to obtain firearms. They circumvent the law through black-market purchases, theft, straw buyers, or trafficking networks—methods that are unaffected by extended waiting periods or procedural delays imposed on legitimate firearm dealers and law-abiding citizens.

This legislation burdens responsible gun owners and small business owners without addressing the actual sources of gun violence. Those intent on committing violent acts are not going into licensed gun shops and waiting in line for a background check—they are exploiting the illegal market, where no such checks or delays exist. My experience in federal investigations, including firearms trafficking and violent crime cases, confirms that the overwhelming majority of guns used in crimes are obtained outside of legal channels.

Furthermore, imposing a fixed 72-hour waiting period—regardless of whether a buyer has already passed a background check—adds unnecessary delay and complexity to an already regulated process. This may delay access to firearms for individuals in immediate need of self-defense and does little to enhance public safety. Instead, it risks creating frustration and distrust in lawful systems, potentially driving some toward unlawful alternatives.

Rather than placing further restrictions on legitimate transactions, we should invest in measures that directly combat criminal behavior: strengthening enforcement against illegal gun trafficking, increasing federal-state cooperation in tracing firearms, and closing gaps in data reporting to existing background check systems.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to reject this legislation. Our efforts should focus on those who break the law—not those who follow it.