

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to SB 243. While I fully support responsible gun ownership, this bill overreaches in ways that unfairly burden lawful citizens, create unnecessary delays, and infringe on constitutionally protected rights.

The proposed **72-hour mandatory waiting period** for firearms and certain unfinished gun parts is a one-size-fits-all policy that punishes responsible gun owners without a clear link to reducing crime. Oregon already requires a background check for every firearm purchase. Delaying the legal transfer of a firearm for three days—regardless of the result of that background check—creates unnecessary hardship, particularly for those facing urgent personal safety concerns such as domestic threats or rising crime in their communities. When seconds count, waiting days is not a viable option.

Additionally, the bill's redefinition of **public areas off-limits to CHL (Concealed Handgun License) holders** erodes the rights of law-abiding citizens who have undergone background checks, training, and vetting to carry responsibly. Expanding gun-free zones does little to stop individuals with criminal intent but does leave ordinary Oregonians defenseless in more parts of their daily lives.

Furthermore, the creation of new "rapid fire activator" crimes could have the unintended consequence of criminalizing law-abiding gun owners and hobbyists over technicalities or poorly defined terms. Laws must be clear and enforceable, not vague or overbroad.

**Even more concerning is the financial burden this bill would impose. Oregon is already facing serious budget shortfalls across education, healthcare, and public safety sectors. Implementing and enforcing the provisions of SB 243 will require resources the state simply does not have.**

**It is deeply troubling that this bill skipped the Ways and Means Committee, which exists to provide necessary fiscal review and accountability. Circumventing that process denies the public a transparent evaluation of the real costs and impacts of the legislation.** At a time when taxpayers are being asked to do more with less, we cannot afford to rush bills through without proper financial scrutiny.

In short, SB 243 targets the wrong people. Rather than addressing the root causes of gun violence—mental health, criminal behavior, and enforcement failures—this bill burdens those who follow the law. We need policies that hold criminals accountable, not ones that create new hoops for responsible citizens to jump through.