

Submitter:

Cody Halll

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am writing to vehemently oppose Senate Bill 243-A7, the so-called “Community Safety Firearms Act,” which continues to infringe on the Second Amendment rights of Oregonians despite significant public opposition. As a public safety professional and resident of Lakeview, Oregon, I find it disgusting that the legislature persists in pushing gun control measures like SB 243-A7, ignoring the voices of law-abiding citizens and catering to the red-shirt gun control advocates who disregard constitutional protections. This bill is a waste of time and resources, diverting focus from addressing actual crime in our state.

SB 243-A7, while scaled back from the egregious A-Engrossed version, still allows schools, cities, and counties to restrict concealed handgun licensees (CHL) from carrying firearms on school grounds and in buildings used for official meetings. These restrictions burden law-abiding Oregonians, particularly in rural communities like mine, where firearms are essential for self-defense due to limited law enforcement presence. The misdemeanor penalties for CHL violations deter lawful carry, undermining our right to bear arms as affirmed by *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), which requires gun laws to have clear historical analogues—something SB 243-A7 lacks.

Financially, this bill is an irresponsible burden on Oregon’s taxpayers. The state’s own fiscal analysis estimates that implementing SB 243-A7 will cost the Department of State Police \$13 million for compliance and enforcement, funds Oregon does not have amid budget constraints. Local governments face an even steeper price tag—an estimated \$38 million to enact and enforce these policies, including signage, legal reviews, and administrative costs. These are resources our schools and counties desperately need for education, infrastructure, and actual public safety measures, not for complying with unconstitutional gun restrictions.

The strong opposition to SB 243, evident in public testimony and advocacy from groups like the Oregon Firearms Federation, has been blatantly ignored. The legislature’s persistence in catering to red-shirt activists, who push measures lacking constitutional muster, is shameful. Historical precedent for restricting concealed carry in schools or municipal buildings is thin, and post-Bruen, such laws face near-certain legal challenges, wasting further taxpayer money on litigation. Stop this nonsense and focus on real crime—Oregon’s rising property crime rates (up 7% from 2020-2024, per OSP data) and violent crime in urban areas demand enforcement, not symbolic gestures that punish the law-abiding.

I urge you to reject SB 243-A7 and any further amendments (e.g., 28883 or others) that erode Second Amendment rights. Listen to your constituents, respect the Constitution, and redirect resources to tackle actual crime through stronger policing and prosecution. Oregonians deserve better than this reckless, costly, and unconstitutional legislation.