

Submitter:

Chad Houston

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

Written opposition testimony on SB 243, for those that want something to start with and edit to fit their needs.

Senate Committee on Rules,

I am submitting my hard opposition to SB 243 and although I have my doubts based on recent history. I am pleading and holding onto hope that our elected representatives will listen to the citizens voice in opposition to this bill. There are so many blatant reasons this bill and those like it, should be stricken down. That I am not sure I will have enough space here or time during in person testimony, to list them all. But I'll start with one and list as many as possible below.

1) I will start with the most glaring, which is the fiscal impact. While our state, in every county, struggles with huge budget deficits. Horrendous levels of crime, terrible drug related issues, homelessness, painfully poor senior care, dispicable veteran support, and saddening youth mental health issues. Our Representatives and Senator's are writing and focusing on bills like this one. That have one singular intent, which is to restrict the law abiding citizens ability to purchase, access, and carry our RIGHTFULLY OWNED firearms as stipulated within our Constitution. Bills that have already cost us tax payers millions of dollars, even prior to their implementation, and will cost us millions more in the future. The fiscal impact of SB 243 is stated as costing 14 Million Dollars. Not only is this bill a huge waste of tax dollar's, but I do not believe that number to be accurate or true. It is very suspect to myself and many others, that SB243 will have exactly the same fiscal impact as HB 3075, and HB 3076. We the public are not being told the truth here, and we are the bank funding our state. This bill should have gone to Ways and Means weeks ago. But a shell game is being played in order to bypass the proper process and meet deadlines. This is not acceptable and must be stopped.

2) This bill is being falsely presented as a driver to prevent suicide in large part. Yet, I see nothing, including the 72 hour waiting period after background check approval. That is really designed or will be helpful in that cause. The only thing a 72 hour waiting period will certainly do. Is put lives that may already be in danger, further at risk. Those at risk of imminent bodily harm by domestic abusers, stalkers, criminals in our neighborhoods that are breaking into our homes. Will be forced to wait even longer to obtain the tools needed to defend ourselves. I have personally experienced three attempted break ins and a personal assault in my own back yard here in Salem. I am 100 percent certain, that without my ability to ward those criminals off with my

firearm. My family of 4 children, their mother, and myself would likely have been victims in yet another local news story. The premise that an additional 72 hours will save lives is irresponsible and unrealistic. I care deeply when it comes to the subject of suicide. Having lost too many close friends and family to the act myself. I know all too well the pain of that type of loss. But I also know, based on those experiences, that a lack of access to a firearm would not, and did not stop 4 of the five loved ones lost to me. When someone makes their mind up to end their life they will turn to whatever is available to do it. Whether it be rope, drugs, traffic, purposeful police encounters, a vehicle and a waterway, or yes, a firearm. The additional 72 hours will not stop people that have their mind made up. Weighing the realities of the points listed above, I know from unfortunate personal experience that I am correct on that. I believe, you if truly considering the facts, know that as well.

3) This bill, without justifiable reasoning, is primarily geared toward us, the honest, law abiding citizens. In particular, the most responsible and lowest risk of citizens as concealed carry holders. Creating a confusing fluid invisible fence line with the "adjacent to" portion of the bill. Th