

Submitter: Teresita Sablan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Your Honor, Members of the Court, and Concerned Citizens,

My name is Teresita Sablan, and I speak today as an Indigenous and Latina woman, a mother, a worker, and a Oregon resident who has personally felt the growing weight of violence, addiction, and institutional failure in our communities.

I am here to oppose the proposed ballot measure SB 243 -that would impose a mandatory 72-hour waiting period before a legal firearm transfer can be completed, even after a background check is initiated.

Let me be clear: I understand and respect the desire to improve public safety. But this measure does not make us safer, it makes us more vulnerable, particularly women of color who are already navigating dangerous environments without adequate protection or institutional support.

In many parts of Oregon, we live in fear, not because we own guns, but because we're surrounded by untreated addiction, mental illness, homelessness, and rising violent crime. As someone who has faced real and immediate threats from individuals in crisis, I can tell you with certainty: 72 hours can mean the difference between life and death.

And let's be honest—a 72-hour delay won't stop criminals. Those who intend to commit violence do not acquire their weapons legally. This measure does nothing to stop illegal gun trafficking, gang violence, or impulsive acts by people already operating outside the law. All it does is delay responsible, law-abiding citizens, like myself, from exercising a fundamental constitutional right to protect ourselves and our families.

Guns are not the root of the problem. The real crises are:

A broken and inaccessible mental health system

A worsening addiction epidemic

An education system that leaves too many behind

A failure to invest in community-based safety and support

We do not solve these problems by delaying protection for the very people who need it most. This measure would disproportionately endanger women like me—mothers, survivors, caretakers who seek only to defend our families when the system has failed to do so.

I urge the court and the people of Oregon to oppose this measure and instead prioritize real solutions that get to the heart of our safety crisis.

Thank you for your time, and may we all work toward a state where safety is not delayed, and justice is not selective.