

Submitter:

Makenzie Wells

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Makenzie. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 243, also known as the "Oregon Suicide Prevention and Community Safety Firearms Act." While I appreciate the legislature's concern for public safety, I am writing today to express strong opposition to this bill, which presents significant legal, constitutional, and practical issues.

I am a nursing aide, a CHL holder/responsible gun owner for 7 years, and I live in the greater Eugene area. I am deeply concerned that this bill imposes unjustified burdens on lawful firearm owners and fails to address actual causes of gun violence.

1. Unconstitutional Burden on the Second Amendment

SB 243 mandates a 72-hour waiting period even after a completed background check and approval. This delay is a direct infringement on the Second Amendment rights of Oregonians, particularly those seeking timely access to firearms for lawful self-defense.

2. Discriminatory Impact on Rural and Vulnerable Populations

This bill disproportionately affects people in rural areas and those facing immediate threats to their safety. A 72-hour wait could have deadly consequences for someone in danger with no other protection.

3. Vague Language and Overcriminalization

The bill's rapid fire activator provision is overly broad and risks criminalizing otherwise legal accessories or modifications. Law-abiding citizens could become accidental felons due to ambiguous definitions.

4. Undermining Concealed Handgun License (CHL) Protections

SB 243 allows local governments to erode the affirmative defense for CHL holders. This undermines the trust and purpose of Oregon's concealed carry licensing system and creates a confusing patchwork of laws.

5. Bureaucratic Overreach Without Data Justification

This legislation increases administrative burdens without presenting evidence that these new rules will improve public safety. Oregon already has robust background checks in place. Resources would be better spent on mental health services and safety education.

Conclusion

SB 243 unfairly targets law-abiding citizens and restricts constitutional freedoms under the guise of public safety. I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on this bill and instead support policies that empower responsible gun ownership and address root causes of violence.

Respectfully submitted,

Makenzie W