

Submitter: Jack Worthington
On Behalf Of: People of Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
Opposition to Senate Bill 243

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243. While I understand the desire to reduce gun violence and improve public safety, this bill places unjustified burdens on law-abiding Oregonians and does little to address the real drivers of violence in our communities.

The proposed 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, even after successful completion of a background check, is excessive and could delay access to self-defense for individuals in immediate danger. Public safety is not improved by making it harder for responsible citizens to protect themselves.

The bill also includes a broad ban on so-called “rapid-fire” devices, which are poorly defined and could unintentionally criminalize common, lawful accessories used by gun owners who comply with all existing laws and regulations. This vague language invites confusion and potential abuse in enforcement.

Raising the legal age for firearm purchases to 21 ignores the reality that many 18- to 20-year-olds responsibly own firearms for hunting, sport, and personal protection. These individuals are considered adults under the law in nearly every other respect—including serving in the military—and deserve equal treatment under the Second Amendment.

Lastly, allowing local governments to create their own firearm regulations in public buildings risks creating a confusing and inconsistent patchwork of rules across the state. Law-abiding citizens would be left guessing whether they are in compliance as they travel from one jurisdiction to another.

Furthermore, the process by which this bill was amended and brought forward—through the introduction of a 23-page amendment shortly before a scheduled public hearing—raises concerns about transparency and public participation. Oregonians deserve meaningful opportunities to review and respond to legislation that affects their rights.

I urge you to oppose SB 243 and instead focus on policies that address the root causes of violence—such as mental health care access, community support

programs, and law enforcement resources—without infringing on the constitutional rights of responsible citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jack Worthington