

Submitter:

Scott Birk

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243, as it infringes upon the constitutional rights of law-abiding Oregonians and imposes an unacceptable financial burden on our state. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, yet this bill's provisions—mandatory waiting periods, age-based restrictions on firearm possession, and expanded gun-free zones—undermine these freedoms without clear evidence of improving public safety.

Furthermore, SB 243 is projected to cost Oregonians \$14.8 billion at a time when citizens are already struggling under the weight of overtaxation. Where will this money come from? The lack of transparency regarding funding sources raises serious concerns about additional tax hikes or reallocation of critical resources from schools, healthcare, or infrastructure. Criminals do not comply with laws, and measures like these disproportionately burden responsible gun owners while failing to address root causes of violence, such as mental health crises or illegal firearm trafficking.

The bill's consolidation of multiple proposals into a single, sweeping package also stifles public scrutiny and meaningful debate, eroding the democratic process. Oregon's already stringent gun laws do not need further restrictive layers that cost billions and deliver questionable benefits. I urge lawmakers to reject SB 243 and prioritize solutions that enhance community safety without violating constitutional rights or straining our state's finances.