

Submitter: Holly Fowler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Hello Senator Kayse Jama and Senator Daniel Bonham and everyone who is in attendance today. Thank you for showing up for such an important topic that directly impacts the roughly four million people in Oregon. My name is Holly Fowler and I am a Sophomore at Lakeridge High School speaking today in strong support of SB 243. As a national honors society student who values community work, and my education very much, showing up everyday for myself and others, I should be, and am focused on learning and growing as a young adult, but an issue that often draws my attention elsewhere is my fear of firearms. I, and many of my friends always have hiding places in the back of our minds for every classroom in our school, what we would do if we were in the bathroom, or out at lunch, we worry about if you classroom doors lock properly and practice shooter drills monthly because of a problem that can so easily be prevented. For many children of all ages, school is their safe place away from a possibly dangerous home, and ultimately no child should have to live with the fear of their life being taken at a place they go to learn and grow up. SB 243 takes real, responsible steps to reduce gun violence by merging many bills I have been closely watching and supporting for a while now, like SB 429, 696, and HB 3075. This bill is not taking away anyone's rights, it is simply protecting lives, making sure guns are stored safely, and that dangerous people, or ones with bad intentions are prevented from buying rapid firearms. I don't want our communities to live in constant fear of another tragedy. I know what it feels like to walk into school wondering when the next shooting threat will be, or a possible real one. Please hear our youth's voices because all lives are worth protecting. Please vote for SB 2433.