

Submitter: Michael Close
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243 A, which I believe unfairly targets and penalizes law-abiding gun owners in Oregon under the guise of public safety.

While I understand and support efforts to reduce gun violence and suicide, this bill does so by placing undue restrictions on responsible citizens who follow the law. The proposed 72-hour waiting period for all firearm transfers assumes that those legally purchasing firearms are an inherent risk, despite having passed background checks and complied with all existing regulations. For many, including those living in rural areas who rely on firearms for personal protection or subsistence hunting, this delay could have real-life consequences.

Additionally, expanding firearm-free zones and increasing age restrictions strips away the rights of young adults who may be trained, responsible, and active in lawful recreational or sporting communities. This legislation sends a message that the state does not trust its own citizens—even those who have never given any reason to be viewed as a threat.

Rather than introducing blanket measures that punish everyone, I urge the Legislature to focus on enforcing existing laws and targeting the small minority of individuals who misuse firearms. Broad policies that sweep in responsible gun owners erode public trust and do little to address the root causes of gun violence.

Please reject SB 243 A and consider more balanced approaches that preserve public safety without infringing on the rights of Oregonians who follow the law.

Michael Close