

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

This bill, SB 243-9, is a blatant and unacceptable assault on the fundamental right to bear arms, a right enshrined in our Constitution to protect law-abiding citizens and serve as a bulwark against tyranny. It's not about public safety; it's about chipping away at our freedoms, one restrictive measure at a time.

The notion of a 72-hour waiting period is an affront to the very concept of self-defense. When an individual faces a credible threat, every second counts. To force them to wait three days before they can exercise their right to protect themselves and their loved ones is not only illogical but morally reprehensible. It presumes guilt upon the law-abiding and offers zero deterrent to criminals who operate outside the bounds of law. This waiting period serves only to endanger vulnerable individuals in their moment of need.

Furthermore, the ban on so-called "rapid-fire activator" devices is a disingenuous attempt to demonize commonly owned firearm accessories. These devices, while allowing for faster rates of fire, do not transform a semi-automatic firearm into a fully automatic machine gun. This ban is based on fear-mongering and a fundamental misunderstanding of firearm mechanics. It punishes responsible gun owners for exercising their rights with legally obtainable accessories and opens the door to further restrictions on other firearm components.

The provision granting local governments the authority to regulate concealed carry is a direct assault on the principle of uniform rights. The Second Amendment is a right that belongs to all citizens of Oregon, not one that can be arbitrarily curtailed based on the whims of local political bodies. This creates a confusing and dangerous patchwork of regulations, turning law-abiding citizens into potential criminals simply by crossing county or city lines. It undermines the very purpose of concealed carry – to allow individuals to protect themselves discreetly wherever they may be.

Beyond the clear infringement on our constitutional rights, let's talk about the fiscal irresponsibility of this legislation. Oregon cannot afford this folly. Implementing and enforcing these new layers of bureaucracy will necessitate a significant allocation of taxpayer dollars. We're talking about increased costs for background checks, the creation of new enforcement mechanisms for accessory bans, and the inevitable legal challenges that will arise from these unconstitutional measures.

Where will this money come from? Will it be diverted from essential services like education, infrastructure, or public safety initiatives that actually address the root

causes of crime? Oregonians are already burdened by a high cost of living; we cannot afford to squander precious resources on feel-good legislation that does nothing to enhance public safety while simultaneously trampling on our fundamental rights.

This bill is not about making Oregon safer; it's about the continued erosion of our Second Amendment rights under the guise of public safety. It punishes the law-abiding, offers no solutions to criminal behavior, and places an undue financial burden on the state. We must stand firm against this infringement and defend our right to keep and bear arms without further obstruction. This is not just about firearms; it's about the fundamental liberties that underpin our society.