

Submitter: Justin Stephens
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my opposition to SB 243, specifically the provision allowing cities, counties, and metropolitan service districts to prohibit concealed carry on and around properties they control.

While I support reasonable measures like waiting periods to ensure responsible gun ownership, I am not a typical pro-gun advocate. I do not support access to automatic weapons or high-capacity magazines, and I dislike feeling the need to carry a firearm to feel safe. However, I believe this bill risks disarming law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter those with criminal intent.

Restricting concealed carry in public spaces leaves citizens—especially in high-crime or unstable areas—vulnerable and without options for self-defense. It may force people to choose between personal safety and compliance with the law, a decision no one should have to make. Unless there is a comprehensive, publicly accessible security infrastructure—such as armed escorts, secure storage, and screening checkpoints—this proposal is impractical and dangerous.

In my own experience working downtown under similar restrictions, where the carry of firearms is illegal as per a federal building, I have no access to firearm storage and feel increasingly unsafe due to crime and instability in the area. Bans like these don't end at the door—they affect a person's entire commute and public life.

Overly localized firearm bans risk creating a patchwork of confusing, inconsistent laws that could turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into criminals, while those intent on violence will ignore the rules altogether. Gun control is a serious matter, and poorly implemented laws can have irreversible consequences.

Finally, combining firearm restriction measures with suicide prevention under one bill is inappropriate. These are distinct issues that deserve separate, focused debate.

Please reject this section of SB 243. Public safety must include the right to self-defense.

Thank you.