

Submitter: Sean Bernhardt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243. While I recognize the desire to reduce gun violence in our state, this bill imposes undue burdens on law-abiding citizens, risks infringing on constitutionally protected rights, and would impose a significant financial cost on the State of Oregon without a clear path to measurable improvements in public safety.

Senate Bill 243 creates new criminal offenses, imposes additional waiting periods, and expands the regulatory scope surrounding firearm ownership and accessories such as rapid-fire activators. These changes will inevitably increase administrative and enforcement costs for state agencies, including the Oregon State Police, courts, and local law enforcement.

The 72-hour waiting period alone will require expanded staffing, system updates, and additional oversight to track compliance and manage appeals or delays. Likewise, the new criminal provisions around rapid-fire devices will require law enforcement training, evidence processing, and prosecutorial resources. The fiscal burden of these mandates has not been justified by clear data showing their effectiveness in reducing crime.

In a time when Oregon faces pressing budgetary needs in mental health services, education, homelessness, and rural public safety, this bill would divert state funds toward enforcing laws that disproportionately impact responsible gun owners and have uncertain outcomes.

SB 243 restricts lawful firearm transfers and allows local governing bodies to eliminate concealed carry protections in certain public facilities—creating a patchwork of regulations that confuses citizens and undermines statewide consistency. These restrictions infringe on the Second Amendment rights of Oregonians, placing arbitrary delays and conditions on a constitutional right that has been upheld repeatedly by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moreover, this bill criminalizes possession of certain firearm accessories—devices that are already subject to federal scrutiny—without offering a clear, data-backed rationale for how such measures will meaningfully impact gun violence rates.

Senate Bill 243 is fiscally irresponsible, constitutionally questionable, and unfairly

punitive toward lawful gun owners. I urge the Committee to reject this measure and instead focus on proven solutions such as mental health interventions, community violence prevention programs, and stronger enforcement of existing laws.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Sean Bernhardt