

Submitter:

Nicooe Chaisson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243, as well as related legislation such as House Bills 3075 and 3076. Having observed the recent hearing on the revised version of SB 243, I was deeply troubled by the arguments presented in its favor. The discussion only reinforced my concerns that this bill is designed to unduly restrict the rights of law-abiding concealed carry holders and to impose unnecessary barriers to the lawful purchase and use of firearms.

SB 243 appears to prioritize restrictions on Second Amendment rights over meaningful public safety measures. During the hearing, I noted repeated claims that firearms owners intimidate public officials and citizens alike. However, these assertions lacked substantive evidence or data to demonstrate how lawful concealed carry holders pose a threat to public safety. Furthermore, the argument that this bill enhances public safety was not supported by clear explanations of its protective mechanisms.

The concerns voiced by some public officials seem to reflect a broader apprehension about public dissatisfaction with legislative decisions. This apprehension, however, should not justify legislation that curtails the constitutional protections afforded to Oregonians. The Second Amendment exists to safeguard citizens from overreach by government entities, ensuring that our fundamental rights remain intact. SB 243, in its current form, risks undermining these protections by targeting responsible, law-abiding citizens.

The citizens of Oregon—across party lines—have consistently and overwhelmingly opposed SB 243 and similar bills. Despite this clear public sentiment, these proposals continue to advance, placing an undue burden on constituents to repeatedly defend their rights. This pattern of dismissive governance is both unproductive and costly, diverting resources from addressing pressing issues that could unite our communities.

I urge you to listen to your constituents and reject SB 243, HB 3075, HB 3076, and any legislation that unjustly restricts the rights of responsible Oregonians. As elected representatives, your duty is to uphold the will of the people and protect our constitutional freedoms. We, your constituents, are engaged, vigilant, and united in our call for responsible governance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for considering the voices of Oregonians in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Nicole Chaisson