

Submitter:	Brian Johnston
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB243

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 243, which proposes a study by the Oregon Department of State Police on the efficiency of firearm background checks for transfers.

While I understand the intent may appear neutral or administrative, I have serious concerns about the necessity, scope, and potential implications of this bill. The current background check system is already functional and regularly scrutinized. Authorizing a new state-funded study without clear evidence of inefficiency represents a questionable use of limited taxpayer resources.

Moreover, SB 243 may serve as a precursor to additional firearm legislation under the pretext of “efficiency.” Without proper safeguards or transparency in how such a study would be conducted, there is a risk that the findings could be used to support restrictive policies that infringe on the rights of lawful gun owners.

If the goal is to improve public safety or reduce criminal misuse of firearms, those efforts should focus on targeted interventions—such as supporting law enforcement, addressing mental health concerns, and combating illegal gun trafficking—not on reexamining systems that already serve their purpose.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 243 or request significant amendments that clarify the intent, methodology, and use of any resulting recommendations.

Thank you for your service and consideration.