

Marshall Landers, SB 243

My name is Marshall Landers and I attend Lake Oswego High School. Throughout the course of my life, I have noticed the detrimental effects of gun violence on our modern day society. Guns made into machine guns with rapid-fire devices are extraordinarily dangerous. Nowhere is this more clear than our schools.

I vividly remember enduring a lockdown in 8th grade. I was in French class. My sister was at the high school, and I saw police cars rushing there. I was worried for her safety. My classroom was cut off from the main building, and I felt vulnerable in those painfully long moments of anticipation and uncertainty before the lockdown ended.

Strangely, I felt as if this was normal. We've experienced lockdown drills and real lockdowns so much that they have become a routine when in reality, they are terrifying symptoms of the presence of dangerous firearms.

It's not ok how normalized lockdowns and gun violence have become among students. Firearms take the lives of 22,000 children and teens every year, and rapid-fire devices make our gun violence problem worse. In 2022, police recovered a rapid-fire device after a gunman killed 21 people and fired hundreds of rounds at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Guns have no place in our schools. A machine gun has no place anywhere. By banning rapid-fire devices, SB 243 will create a safer learning environment for both students and teachers.