

Submitter: Jean Carlton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

SB243 2nd testimony

We support SB243 as originally written to include a 72 hr wait period before receiving a firearm.

The immediate purchase and acquisition of a gun allows people to act on temporary emotions and impulses, which can increase the risk of both gun suicide and gun homicide.

Suicide attempts are often impulsive, singular episodes that involve little planning. Many studies suggest that most suicide survivors contemplated their actions for only a brief period of time—often less than 24 hours—before making a suicide attempt. Similarly, studies suggest that some of the factors that incite violence against others, such as anger and rage, can be short-lived.

Waiting period laws, which create a buffer between the time of gun purchase and gun acquisition, can help to prevent impulsive acts of gun violence. In particular, studies suggest that waiting period laws prevent firearm suicides and firearm homicides. Studies suggest that waiting period laws are associated with reduced rates of firearm suicide.

By one estimation, waiting period laws may reduce firearm suicide rates by 7–11%. Waiting period laws also appear to reduce gun homicide rates. One study found that waiting period laws that delay the purchase of firearms by a few days can reduce gun homicides by roughly 17%. All these states have passed laws to protect lives:

Colorado – 3 days (Effective October 1, 2023)

California- 10 days

District of Columbia – 10 days

Florida – 3 days or the time it takes to complete required background checks, whichever occurs later.

Hawaii – 14 days¹⁸

Illinois – 72 hours

Maine – 72 hours

New Mexico – 7 days

Rhode Island – 7 days

Vermont – 72 hours

Washington – 10 business days

It is a sad statement of the effectiveness of Oregon's legislature if we are unable to do the same to save the lives of Oregonians.

Thank you for your attention and public service.

Dr Steven and Jean Carlton