

May 12, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

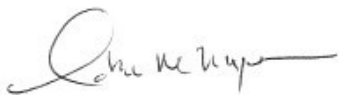
On behalf of the City of Portland, I am writing to encourage passage of SB 243A with the newly proposed amendment that gives local governments the ability to decide whether to allow firearms in public buildings where official meetings take place.

While we would have liked to see this language go further to include additional spaces like parks and the areas around public buildings, we recognize that change is often incremental and appreciate having the places where official meetings are held to start.

Ultimately, we believe it should be up to each community to decide how they want to handle firearms in their public spaces. We fully recognize this isn't a tool that every city in Oregon will want to use. In Portland, however, we anticipate this provision would be used to help increase a sense of wellbeing and safety when engaging with the City. That's the embodiment of local control – allowing local decision making to reflect the expectations and values of our communities.

As Deputy City Administrator of the Public Safety Service Area for the City of Portland, my team and I work daily to ensure the safety of Portlanders, including our public officials and city employees. In Portland, we believe that prohibiting firearms from public buildings is the least we can do to support a thriving democracy and engagement in the civic process. The State Capitol has had this authority since 2021 and we would greatly appreciate having the same ability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Myers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Myers
Deputy City Administrator
Public Safety Service Area