

Submitter:

Gregory McGill

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am a resident of Carlton Oregon. I am here to respectfully voice my opposition to Senate Bill 243, which imposes a mandatory 72-hour waiting period before a gun dealer can transfer a firearm or unfinished frame or receiver, even after a background check has been approved by the Department of State Police.

While I understand the intent to enhance public safety, this bill introduces unnecessary delays that undermine the rights of law-abiding citizens, create practical burdens, and fail to address the root causes of gun-related issues.

Here are my key concerns:

#### Infringement on Constitutional Rights:

The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, and our state constitution reinforces this right. SB 243 imposes an arbitrary delay on law-abiding citizens who have already passed a background check, effectively restricting their ability to exercise a constitutional right without clear justification. Once a background check is approved, further delaying the transfer serves no rational purpose and penalizes responsible individuals.

#### Lack of Evidence for Effectiveness:

There is no conclusive data demonstrating that a 72-hour waiting period significantly reduces gun violence or suicides beyond existing background check protocols. Studies, such as those from the National Academy of Sciences, show mixed results on waiting periods, with no definitive link to reduced crime rates in states with similar laws. Criminals, who often obtain firearms illegally, are unlikely to be deterred by this requirement, leaving law-abiding citizens as the primary group affected.

#### Unnecessary Burden on Responsible Gun Owners:

For individuals in urgent need of self-defense—such as victims of domestic violence or those facing credible threats—a 72-hour delay could be life-threatening. Even for those not in immediate danger, the delay creates logistical challenges, particularly for rural residents who may need to travel long distances to pick up their firearm. This bill assumes all gun purchases are impulsive, disregarding the careful consideration most buyers undertake.

#### Impact on Small Businesses:

Gun dealers, many of whom are small business owners, will face increased administrative burdens and potential loss of sales due to delayed transactions.

Customers may be deterred by the inconvenience, harming local economies without a clear public safety benefit.

**Redundancy with Existing Safeguards:**

Oregon's existing background check system, managed by the Department of State Police, is robust and effective. Requiring an additional 72-hour wait after approval is redundant and undermines confidence in the system's efficiency. Resources would be better directed toward enforcing existing laws, addressing mental health crises, or targeting illegal firearms trafficking.

In conclusion, SB 243 places an undue burden on law-abiding citizens, lacks evidence of effectiveness, and fails to address the real drivers of gun-related issues. I urge the committee to reject this bill and focus on solutions that respect constitutional rights while promoting meaningful public safety outcomes. Thank you for your time and consideration.