

Submitter:

Chris Toquero

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

Strong Opposition to Senate Bill 243 A – Concerning Firearms Regulations

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Toquero and I am a resident of Keizer, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243 A. While I understand the desire to enhance public safety, I believe this bill, in its current form, infringes upon the rights of law-abiding Oregonians, imposes undue burdens, and may not effectively address the root causes of violence.

SB 243 A contains several provisions that are deeply concerning:

- * **Extended Waiting Periods:** The proposed mandatory 72-hour waiting period for firearm transfers, regardless of when a background check is approved, is an unnecessary impediment for responsible citizens. For individuals facing immediate threats or those who live in remote areas, this delay can critically undermine their ability to ensure their self-defense. Current background check systems are designed to prevent prohibited individuals from acquiring firearms; adding an arbitrary waiting period punishes the law-abiding.

- * **Restrictions and Criminalization of "Rapid Fire Activators":** The creation of new felonies and misdemeanors related to "rapid fire activators" is concerning due to the potential for overly broad or vague definitions. Such language could inadvertently criminalize common and legitimate firearm accessories or modifications that are not machine guns, thereby turning responsible gun owners into criminals without clear intent of wrongdoing. The focus should be on malicious intent and criminal misuse, not on specific, broadly defined accessories.

- * **Expansion of "Public Building" Definitions and Restrictions on Concealed Carry:** Expanding the definition of "public building" to include "adjacent grounds" creates ambiguity and expands firearm-restricted zones in a way that could be confusing and disarming for licensed concealed handgun permit holders. Furthermore, provisions that authorize governing bodies to limit the affirmative defense for concealed handgun licensees in these areas undermine the rights of individuals who have undergone training and background checks to carry a means of self-defense. These measures effectively disarm responsible citizens in more public spaces, potentially making them more vulnerable.

- * **Potential Age-Based Restrictions:** While details may vary with amendments, proposals to restrict firearm possession or purchase for adults under the age of 21 are an infringement on their constitutional rights. Young adults aged 18 to 20 are considered adults for most legal purposes, including voting and military service, and should not be denied their Second Amendment rights to own firearms for lawful purposes, including self-defense and sport.

Instead of focusing on measures that restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens, I urge

this committee and the legislature to consider initiatives that address the underlying causes of violence, such as improving mental health access, combating illegal firearm trafficking, and ensuring swift and certain prosecution of violent criminals.

SB 243 A, as it stands, would place significant burdens on responsible gun owners and dealers without a clear indication that it would meaningfully enhance public safety. It risks turning otherwise law-abiding individuals into accidental criminals due to complex and potentially vague regulations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote "NO" on Senate Bill 243 A. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Chris Toquero