

Submitter: Jim Strong
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am submitting my written objection to the furtherance and/or passage of SB 243. I am in favor of criminal background checks being required for gun purchases. I am a retired California municipal police officer and during my career effected many arrests & prosecutions for street level gun crimes. I can say with certainty that gun crimes are not prevented by further restricting the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding firearm owners. The reason is simple: street level criminals & organized crime members routinely disobey laws, especially firearm laws. The most significant reason for this is the relative lack of enforcement & prosecution for violations of laws already on the books. No amount of hand-wringing, reactive legislation, or hatred of firearms by unknowledgeable community members or legislators will change that.

The 72-hr purchase waiting period is simply a reactive requirement designed to overlook OSP's chronic staffing issues & slow-waking process in completing the mandated background check process. If legislative members truly want to bolster the background check capacity of the state, provide funds for increased staffing & resources. Penalizing law-abiding firearm purchases with a longer unnecessary delay because of bureaucracy is unjust & asinine.

Mandating new state requirements on licensed firearm dealers is nothing but redundant & a money grab. Such dealers are already licensed federally and this proposal is a perfect example of needless over-legislation.

While I appreciate the attempt to allow local ordinance legislation re: restricting (or not) CHL holder possession in certain publicly-owned or operated facilities, such possession shouldn't be restricted at all. Firearm possession is a fundamental right. I view this as akin to allowing one to obtain a driver's license & registered vehicle, but not allowing one to park in a public parking lot at a courthouse. The rationale is ill conceived.

In closing I feel it necessary to remind the legislative body once again that the State should be viewed as two distinct geographical regions, the largest lying east of the Cascade range. Whenever possible it is more sensible to leave over-legislative mandates of firearms to the west side. By comparison the east side has far fewer preventable gun crimes.