

Submitter: Irine Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243, as it represents a clear infringement on the constitutional Second Amendment rights of Oregonians, including women who rely on firearms for self-defense. This bill, consolidating four restrictive proposals, undermines personal freedom and safety without addressing the root causes of violence.

SB 243 imposes a 72-hour waiting period, bans rapid-fire devices, restricts concealed carry in public spaces, and originally sought to prohibit those under 21 from owning most firearms. These measures disproportionately harm law-abiding citizens, particularly women, who often purchase firearms to protect themselves in vulnerable situations. A waiting period delays access to self-defense tools, potentially leaving women at risk during critical moments. The ban on rapid-fire devices and restrictions on concealed carry further limit effective self-defense options, ignoring the reality that criminals do not obey such laws.

The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, a right upheld by landmark Supreme Court rulings like *District of Columbia v. Heller*. SB 243's sweeping restrictions fail to align with this constitutional protection and instead burden responsible gun owners. Oregon's already strict gun laws, coupled with this bill, create unnecessary barriers for women and others seeking to exercise their rights.

Moreover, SB 243 does little to address mental health crises or enforce existing laws against criminals, which are the true drivers of gun violence. Instead, it punishes law-abiding Oregonians, eroding trust in governance. I urge you to reject this bill and protect our constitutional freedoms.