

Submitter:

Mike Arnold

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

My name is Mike Arnold and I'm a retired Oregon law enforcement officer after having served in such a capacity for 37 years. During the span of my career I never became worried about law abiding citizens who carried firearms and often times that gave me comfort knowing such citizens were present who had my back when other officers were not available. SB 243 is called a suicide prevention bill which has nothing to do with suicide. It aims to disarm legal citizens who can now lawfully carry the firearms in public that could prevent a mass casualty situation as law enforcement numbers are spread so thin. People who are hardened criminals have no regard for law. Only law abiding citizens do. Criminals who want to harm or kill people will not care whether it is a gun free zone or not. Just like "drug free zones", gun free zones will not stop criminals from committing crimes.

Additionally, SB 243 creates another unfunded liability in this state and transfers this financial liability to cities and counties for creating such areas that will require additional resources for personnel, court and prosecution. The state would also have unfunded liabilities as these new crimes would fall under the state circuit court's jurisdiction. Oregon taxpayers cannot afford more taxes to support a measure like this.

I urge a No vote on SB 243