

Submitter: Josh Turner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243 (SB 243), a firearm regulation package that imposes undue restrictions on law-abiding Oregonians. While public safety is a valid concern, this bill is overly restrictive, costly, and lacks evidence of effectiveness.

Below are my concerns:

1. Constitutional Infringement? SB 243's 72-hour waiting period, bans on rapid-fire devices, restrictions on concealed carry in public buildings, and prohibition on semi-automatic weapon purchases for those under 21 infringe on Second Amendment rights. These measures burden responsible gun owners, particularly in rural Oregon, where firearms are used for self-defense, hunting, and recreation, without clear evidence they reduce crime.

2. Ineffective Solutions? The bill's measures, like the waiting period and device bans, lack evidence of reducing gun violence or suicides. Oregon's existing strict gun laws have not addressed the root causes of firearm-related deaths, primarily suicides driven by mental health issues. SB 243 fails to fund mental health services or target criminal behavior, instead penalizing law-abiding citizens.

3. Fiscal and Administrative Burdens? SB 243's estimated \$14.7 million cost for 2025–27, including fingerprint-based background checks and tracking systems, strains public resources. Local governments face unfunded mandates, diverting funds from critical services like housing and public safety. This builds on Measure 114, which remains under judicial review and unproven.

4. Inconsistent and Impractical Rules? Allowing local governments to ban concealed carry in public buildings creates a patchwork of regulations, confusing law-abiding citizens. The 72-hour waiting period hinders gun show transactions, limiting access without proven benefits. These rules complicate compliance without enhancing safety.

5. Limited Public Input? SB 243's advancement has lacked transparency, with amendments introduced with little scrutiny and hearings scheduled on short notice. Such significant legislation requires robust public debate to ensure balanced solutions that respect rights and safety.

I urge you to oppose SB 243 and focus on effective solutions like improving mental

health access, enforcing existing laws, and promoting responsible gun ownership. Oregonians deserve policies that respect their constitutional protections while addressing safety concerns.

Thank you for considering my concerns. Please vote against Senate Bill 243.

Sincerely,

Joshua Turner  
Tualatin, Oregon