

Submitter:

Mark Sterner

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to SB 243.

This bill represents yet another attempt to restrict the rights of law-abiding gun owners in Oregon while doing little to address the actual causes of violence or crime in our communities. Adding mandatory waiting periods and expanded “gun-free zones” will only create additional burdens for responsible citizens who have already passed background checks, safety courses, and licensing requirements.

I am particularly concerned with the inclusion of language targeting so-called “rapid fire activators.” These broad and vague definitions risk criminalizing common aftermarket parts, many of which have legitimate, lawful uses for training, competition, and recreational shooting. The bill’s sweeping language may even unintentionally apply to devices or modifications that do not increase the actual rate of fire but simply enhance ergonomics or user comfort.

As written, SB 243 creates legal uncertainty, opening the door for subjective enforcement against responsible gun owners who are not engaged in any criminal behavior. This type of vague legislative language is both dangerous and unnecessary. If the state wishes to target specific dangerous devices, it should do so through clearly defined, narrow, and technically accurate statutes — not broad language that sweeps in lawful conduct.

Furthermore, rushing these sweeping changes through the legislative process via a last-minute amendment deprives Oregon citizens of the open, transparent debate that such major policy changes deserve.

Oregon needs to focus its efforts on real solutions that address criminal misuse of firearms, mental health, and violent offenders — not on restricting the rights of its most responsible and vetted citizens.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on SB 243.