

Submitter: Vandy Shelton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243
Testimony Opposing SB 243
Submitted by Vandy M. Shelton
June 2025

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Vandy M. Shelton, and I am writing to express my firm opposition to Senate Bill 243. As a woman, a medical professional, and a legal concealed handgun license (CHL) holder, I feel this bill threatens not only our constitutional rights, but also the safety of women like myself—women who have chosen to take responsibility for their own protection in an uncertain world.

This Bill Punishes the Responsible

I came to this country understanding what freedom truly means. I've built a life rooted in discipline, faith, and the belief that the law should protect—not punish—the innocent. SB 243 flips that ideal on its head. It assumes that law-abiding citizens, not criminals, are the problem. But criminals do not obey background checks or waiting periods. We do.

The 72-hour waiting period might seem small on paper, but for a woman in danger, that delay could mean the difference between life and death. I've seen firsthand the aftermath of domestic violence. I know women who have left their abusers, only to find themselves stalked and vulnerable. This bill would disarm them when they need protection the most.

It Undermines Our Constitutional Rights

SB 243 interferes with our Second Amendment rights, chipping away at the protections that countless Americans, including many women, depend on. The right to defend ourselves should not be placed behind arbitrary waiting periods or vague language about "rapid-fire devices"—many of which are already federally regulated. It is unreasonable to expect responsible citizens to navigate a maze of conflicting rules while criminals operate without regard for any of them.

It Creates Legal Confusion and Unequal Access

Allowing cities and counties to create their own restrictions on CHL holders introduces confusion and inequality. A woman driving across town with her legally carried firearm could unknowingly enter a restricted zone and become a criminal, without intent, without warning. That is not justice; that is entrapment.

Where's the Data? Where's the Focus?

This bill lacks meaningful evidence that it would prevent violence. As many have already pointed out, most firearm-related deaths in Oregon are suicides. And yet, SB 243 does nothing to address mental health access, counseling services, or community-based outreach. Instead, it misplaces its efforts on restrictions that are easy to pass but hard to justify.

In Closing

I ask you to consider the very real consequences this bill would have on women like me. We are not the problem. We are mothers, daughters, wives, professionals—and we have a right to defend our lives with the same urgency we devote to saving others.

SB 243 is not a solution. It is a misguided response that threatens our rights while ignoring the root causes of violence. I urge you—do not pass this bill.

Respectfully,
Vandy M. Shelton
Lebanon, Oregon