

Submitter:

Geo Norman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I am writing as a concerned Oregonian to strongly oppose Senate Bill 243, which would expand the concealed carry ban to include the grounds adjacent to public buildings. This legislation is an overreach that infringes on the constitutional rights of responsible, law-abiding citizens and creates unnecessary confusion and legal jeopardy for concealed handgun license holders.

SB 243 does not enhance public safety—it undermines it. Concealed carry permit holders are among the most vetted and law-abiding citizens in Oregon. Expanding the current restrictions to include adjacent grounds such as parking lots, sidewalks, or even adjoining parks serves no rational safety objective. Instead, it creates ambiguous zones where citizens could unintentionally violate the law simply by walking to or from a location while legally carrying.

This bill effectively disarms responsible citizens in broad swaths of public space, leaving them more vulnerable rather than protected. Furthermore, the term “grounds adjacent to public buildings” is vague and difficult to enforce fairly, increasing the risk of arbitrary enforcement and legal entanglement for permit holders.

I urge the committee to consider the real-world implications of this bill: it criminalizes law-abiding behavior, does nothing to deter criminal misuse of firearms, and erodes public trust in fair governance. I respectfully ask that you vote NO on SB 243 and uphold the rights and responsibilities of Oregon’s concealed carry license holders.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.