

Submitter: Ed Bunch  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 243-B

Submitted to the Oregon Legislature

Ed Bunch

Hillsboro, OR

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Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to respectfully express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243-B. While I understand the intent to enhance public safety, I believe this legislation imposes unnecessary restrictions on law-abiding Oregonians, undermines constitutional rights, and fails to address the root causes of crime and violence. Below are my primary concerns:

**Infringement on Second Amendment Rights:** SB 243-B introduces a mandatory 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, bans rapid-fire devices, and allows local governments to prohibit concealed carry in public buildings, even for licensed individuals. These measures disproportionately burden law-abiding citizens who rely on their constitutional right to bear arms for self-defense, hunting, or recreational purposes. The Second Amendment protects these rights, and Oregonians should not face additional barriers to exercising them responsibly.

**Ineffectiveness in Addressing Crime:** The provisions of SB 243-B, such as the waiting period and expanded gun-free zones, do little to deter criminals who, by definition, do not comply with existing laws. For example, the Oregon Firearms Federation has noted that expanded gun-free zones create areas where law-abiding citizens are disarmed, potentially increasing vulnerability to criminal activity. Furthermore, Oregon's existing gun laws, including those tied to Measure 114, have already created confusion and delays for lawful gun owners without clear evidence of reducing crime.

**Impact on Concealed Handgun License Holders:** SB 243-B's provision allowing local governments to restrict concealed carry in public buildings unfairly targets Oregon's most law-abiding citizens—those who have undergone background checks and training to obtain a concealed handgun license (CHL). Punishing CHL holders with additional restrictions does not enhance public safety and undermines the trust of responsible gun owners who follow the law.

**Overwhelming Public Opposition:** Public testimony against SB 243-B has been significant, with reports indicating 1,503 submissions opposing the bill compared to only 187 in support during earlier hearings. This strong opposition reflects the

concerns of Oregonians who value their rights and question the efficacy of these measures. Ignoring such widespread public sentiment risks alienating constituents and eroding trust in the legislative process.

Practical Challenges: The 72-hour waiting period creates logistical issues, particularly for gun shows and rural residents who may need to travel significant distances to purchase firearms. This provision could effectively prevent timely access to firearms for self-defense, especially for individuals facing immediate threats.

I urge the Legislature to reconsider SB 243-B and focus on solutions that address actual causes of violence, such as mental health resources, enforcement of existing laws, and community-based crime prevention programs. Restricting the rights of law-abiding Oregonians does not make our communities safer and may instead create unintended vulnerabilities.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I respectfully request that you vote against SB 243-B to protect the rights and safety of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Ed Bunch

Hillsboro, Oregon