

Submitter: Joey Cusic  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Honorable Committee Members,

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243 (SB 243), an omnibus gun control bill that restricts the rights of law-abiding Oregonians. While aimed at public safety, SB 243 infringes on constitutional protections, fails to address root causes of violence, and imposes undue burdens. I urge you to reject this bill for the reasons below.

#### Constitutional Violations

SB 243's 72-hour waiting period, ban on rapid-fire devices, and concealed carry restrictions in public buildings violate the Second Amendment and Oregon Constitution (Article I, Section 27). The U.S. Supreme Court's Bruen (2022) decision requires firearm laws to align with historical traditions. Waiting periods, a modern concept, lack such precedent and burden those needing immediate self-defense, like domestic violence victims. The ban on bump stocks, rarely used in crimes, punishes hobbyists and risks overreach under Heller (2008). Local concealed carry bans create a patchwork of rules, confusing law-abiding permit holders and undermining Bruen's protections.

#### Ineffective Solutions

SB 243 fails to tackle gun violence's causes. Oregon's firearm deaths are largely suicides (60%), yet the bill ignores mental health shortages, with only one psychiatric bed per 10,000 residents. Studies, like a 2017 American Journal of Public Health report, show waiting periods don't significantly reduce homicides. Criminals, often using illegal firearms, evade these restrictions. Enforcing existing laws and addressing socioeconomic factors like poverty would be more effective.

#### Economic and Administrative Burdens

The bill's \$14.7 million cost for 2025–27 strains budgets, diverting funds from mental health or policing. Counties face unfunded mandates to enforce local rules, burdening rural areas. Firearm dealers, often small businesses, incur costs from waiting periods and accessory bans, impacting local economies. Citizens face travel and safety costs, especially in rural regions.

#### Patchwork Regulations

Allowing local governments to set concealed carry rules creates inconsistent laws, risking unintentional violations by permit holders. This confuses law enforcement and invites legal challenges, draining resources.

### Impact on Law-Abiding Citizens

SB 243 burdens rural residents, who rely on firearms for protection, and domestic violence survivors needing urgent self-defense. The accessory ban harms recreational shooters without reducing crime. These measures punish the compliant while criminals ignore them.

### Alternatives

Instead of SB 243, fund mental health services, enforce existing laws, and support community programs to address violence's roots. Promote responsible gun ownership without infringing rights.

### Conclusion

SB 243 violates constitutional rights, ignores root causes, and burdens Oregonians with costs and confusion. Reject this bill and pursue bipartisan solutions that enhance safety while respecting freedoms. Thank you for considering this testimony.