

Submitter: Wayne Abbe
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

SB 243 imposes substantial financial costs on both the state and local governments, diverting resources from critical services. The bill requires at least \$14.7 million in state spending for the 2025–27 biennium to implement expanded background checks, including fingerprint-based systems and statewide tracking. Additionally, local governments face “indeterminate” but potentially significant unfunded mandates, forcing counties to reallocate funds from essential services like housing, mental health care, and public safety. These costs are particularly troubling given Oregon’s existing budget constraints and the lack of a comprehensive cost analysis, as the bill has been pushed forward without thorough review by the Department of Corrections or the Ways and Means Committee. This fiscal irresponsibility risks straining local budgets and burdening taxpayers without clear evidence that the measures will effectively reduce gun violence.

Senate Bill 243 represents a costly and overreaching expansion of gun control measures that fail to address the root causes of violence while imposing significant financial burdens on Oregon’s state and local governments. The influence of out-of-state groups like Moms Demand Action further undermines the bill’s legitimacy, as it prioritizes external agendas over the needs and rights of Oregonians. Lawmakers should reject SB 243 and focus on enforcing existing laws, improving mental health services, and respecting the constitutional protections afforded to Oregon’s citizens.