

Submitter: Jeff Thompson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

As a concerned Oregonian committed to preserving constitutional rights and public safety, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243 (SB 243). This legislation represents an overreach that undermines the Second Amendment, burdens law-abiding citizens, and fails to address the root causes of gun violence.

SB 243's provisions, including a mandatory 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases, bans on rapid-fire devices like bump stocks, and expanded gun-free zones allowing local governments to prohibit concealed carry in public buildings, infringe on the rights of responsible gun owners. These measures disproportionately penalize those who comply with the law while doing little to deter criminals, who, by definition, do not adhere to regulations. The waiting period, for example, could delay individuals in urgent need of self-defense tools, while expanded gun-free zones create vulnerable areas where law-abiding concealed carry holders are disarmed.

Furthermore, the bill's last-minute amendments, such as the magazine capacity ban tied to the legally contested Measure 114, were introduced with insufficient public input, eroding transparency and trust in the legislative process. Hundreds of Oregonians submitted testimony opposing SB 243, reflecting widespread concern that it prioritizes restrictive policies over effective solutions. Studies show that waiting periods and magazine bans have minimal impact on reducing homicides or suicides, yet the bill ignores critical issues like mental health care access, which is a proven factor in preventing violence.

I am also troubled by the influence of out-of-state advocacy groups, reportedly funded by non-Oregonian interests, pushing for policies misaligned with our state's values. SB 243 does not reflect the needs of Oregonians but rather advances an agenda that erodes personal freedoms without enhancing safety.

I urge lawmakers to reject SB 243 and instead pursue bipartisan solutions that respect constitutional protections, address mental health, and focus on enforcing existing laws against criminal activity. Oregon deserves legislation that balances safety with liberty, not measures that sacrifice one for the other.

Sincerely,
Jeff Thompson