

Submitter: John Guerin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 243, as it imposes unnecessary and ineffective restrictions on law-abiding gun owners while failing to address the root causes of gun violence. This omnibus bill, which includes a 72-hour waiting period, a ban on "rapid-fire activators," and expanded gun-free zones, infringes on constitutional rights and creates undue burdens without enhancing public safety.

The 72-hour waiting period assumes law-abiding citizens are impulsive threats, yet studies show waiting periods have minimal impact on reducing homicides or suicides. Oregon's existing background checks and Measure 114's permit-to-purchase system already ensure thorough vetting. This additional delay disproportionately harms vulnerable individuals, such as domestic violence survivors, who may need immediate access to self-defense tools.

The ban on "rapid-fire activators" uses vague terminology, risking overreach that could criminalize common firearm accessories. The prohibition lacks a grandfather clause, potentially turning legal owners into criminals overnight. Furthermore, these devices are rarely used in crimes, rendering the ban symbolic rather than practical.

Expanding gun-free zones to include public buildings and adjacent grounds creates a patchwork of confusing regulations. Concealed handgun license (CHL) holders, who undergo rigorous background checks, are not the problem. Disarming them in vaguely defined areas increases vulnerability without deterring criminals, who ignore such laws. A 2021 JAMA study even suggests armed security can escalate casualties in active shooter scenarios, undermining the bill's premise.

SB 243 diverts resources from addressing mental health crises and violent crime, which drive most gun deaths in Oregon. Instead of punishing responsible gun owners, invest in community-based solutions and mental health care. I respectfully request you vote against SB 243 to protect Oregonians' rights and focus on effective public safety measures.

Sincerely, John Guerin