

Submitter:

Jeffrey Conant

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB243

I'm opposing this bill once again today as I would continue to do every time it was brought before me. In a nutshell, it is poorly crafted and a window dressing to anti gun bills in their entirety. It is meant to persuade people who are unfamiliar with firearms that it will somehow solve the problem of violent crimes they hear about in the news, yet in reality it lacks any substance or means to be effective. Starting with the rapid fire devices, simply put, the vast majority of violent crimes are not being committed using any sort of devices like this. And the one device that has been linked to crime, the Glock switch, is already illegal at the Federal level. This spells out plainly that criminals don't follow laws, which we already know. Who this does effect is the average firearm enthusiast, many who are veterans or have served as law enforcement. Why are we trying to punish groups of people who have served society or who only mean to be left alone? This makes SB243 controversial, in my opinion, because it aims at a demographic of people who are statistically unlikely to commit violent crimes, people who were following the law to begin with. This makes me wonder, is this bill politically or socially prejudiced? Why else would it go specifically in a direction that we know won't solve the problem it claims to? A person is either fit to own a gun or they are not. We already have background checks on each purchase of a firearm in Oregon. Some people have been checked tens or hundreds of times in their life.

My next complaint is about the portion that restricts legal concealed permit holders from being able to travel in many areas. Again we are making a threat out of the wrong group of people. Criminals don't follow invisible lines. But they do know when other people will follow these laws so they can more readily commit their crime without deterrence. I personally will not travel to places that advertise to be gun free zones because in the end I know it makes me more likely to be a target if everyone is afraid to carry their firearms for fear of upsetting someone else. Please consider the facts and statistics today over emotions or feel good measures that are a poor excuse for solving the problems we face with crime in our cities. When we eventually learn this law never worked, it will remain in place forever just like all the broken excuses for laws that came before it.