

Submitter: Brett Kacalek  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243  
To: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
From: Brett Kacalek, Mulino, OR  
Re: Opposition to SB 243

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary,

I am writing to you as a concerned Oregonian and strong supporter of constitutional rights to express my firm opposition to SB 243.

#### 1. Raising the Age to Purchase Firearms Is Arbitrary and Unfair

SB 243 proposes to increase the legal age to purchase firearms to 21. This change is both inconsistent and unjust. We trust 16-year-olds to drive—despite the thousands of annual vehicle-related fatalities. We trust 18-year-olds to enlist in the military, carry weapons in combat, and make life-or-death decisions in service to our nation. We allow youth to begin hunting with proper supervision as early as 12. Yet this bill would prevent a young adult from exercising their Second Amendment rights at age 18?

What happens to the responsible 18-year-old who grows up in a rural area, wants to hunt with friends or family, and has no father figure to supply a firearm? SB 243 doesn't just delay a purchase—it denies a rite of passage, a family tradition, and an individual's right to self-sufficiency.

#### 2. Permits and Magazine Restrictions Do Not Reduce Gun Violence

There is no credible evidence that SB 243's proposed restrictions—whether permit requirements, magazine capacity limits, or age-based bans—will deter crime. It is already illegal to commit violent acts with firearms. Criminals do not follow these laws; they obtain guns through theft, straw purchases, or the black market.

SB 243 does not address the real issues behind gun violence. Instead, it burdens law-abiding citizens with red tape, expense, and unnecessary delay, while doing little to stop those already intent on breaking the law.

#### 3. Strains Law Enforcement and Distracts from Real Threats

Our law enforcement agencies are already underfunded, understaffed, and overstretched. Adding another layer of bureaucracy to enforce magazine restrictions and age checks—without any meaningful public safety return—distracts from real policing needs. Officers should be focused on intercepting actual criminal activity, not checking paperwork on peaceful gun owners.

In Summary:

SB 243 is misguided. It restricts the rights of legal, responsible Oregonians while doing virtually nothing to deter actual criminal behavior. It creates barriers for rural youth, disrespects veterans and service members under 21, and misplaces trust in regulations rather than enforcement and education.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 243 and stand up for the rights of responsible Oregonians.

Respectfully,  
Brett Kacalek  
Mulino, OR