

Submitter: Lance Belshe
On Behalf Of: Law abiding Oregonians
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Members of the House Rules Committee -

My name is Lance Belshe a resident of Moro, Oregon, and I submit this testimony to respectfully voice my opposition to Senate Bill 243, which would impose excessively on restrictive firearms regulations on law-abiding Oregonians undermine the right to self defense without effectively addressing the root causes of violent crime.

First, a 72-hour waiting period for firearm purchases adds an unnecessary burden on responsible gun owners. Many Oregonians, especially those who are most vulnerable and at risk of being victims of violent crime, rely on firearms for self-defense. This delay will very likely leave at-risk individuals, such as victims of domestic violence, without timely access to the means of self defense. Studies, like one from the National Institute of Justice in 2018, show waiting periods have, at best, mixed results on reducing gun violence, yet prevent law-abiding citizens, who have passed background checks, from defending their lives, as happened in the tragic case of Carol M. Bowne (New Jersey, 2015).

Second, the ban on rapid-fire devices targets mechanisms that are rarely, if ever, used in crime. According to FBI crime statistics, rifles of all types, including those with such accessories, account for less than 3% of firearm-related homicides. Punishing lawful owners with felony charges for possession or transfer does nothing to deter criminals, who obtain firearms illegally. Instead, this provision is nothing more than a symbolic gesture, eroding the individual civil liberties citizens - the Right to Life, Right to Self Defense, and the Second Amendment - without measurable public safety benefit or promotion of the general welfare.

Finally, allowing local governments the ability to subjectively ban concealed carry in public spaces will create a patchwork of inconsistent rules and onerous requirements to confuse law-abiding concealed handgun license holders. These individuals undergo rigorous background checks and training to carry responsibly. Stripping their ability to defend themselves in public spaces could increase risks to potential victims of violent crime, rather than reduce them. For example, a 2022 study by the Crime Prevention Research Center found concealed carry permit holders are overwhelmingly law-abiding, with revocation rates below 0.1%.

I urge the committee to reject SB 243 and focus on solutions that address the issues of mental health, enforcement of existing laws, and target illegal firearm use without penalizing responsible citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,