

Submitter: Brandi Gould
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 243, which directs the Department of State Police to study the efficiency of firearm transfer criminal background checks. While at first glance this may seem like a neutral study, I am deeply concerned about its potential implications for law-abiding gun owners in Oregon.

This bill appears to lay the groundwork for increased restrictions and delays in firearm transfers. The existing background check system already places undue burdens on responsible gun owners, often resulting in excessive wait times and bureaucratic inefficiencies that infringe upon Oregonians' Second Amendment rights. Rather than introducing another layer of government oversight, resources would be better spent addressing the real issues affecting public safety—such as enforcing existing laws against violent criminals.

My primary concerns with SB 243 include:

1. Potential for Increased Delays – Background checks in Oregon already face significant backlogs, sometimes leaving lawful citizens waiting for extended periods to exercise their constitutional rights. A “study” could be a pretext for further restrictions rather than genuine efficiency improvements.
2. Unnecessary Use of Taxpayer Funds – The Department of State Police should be focusing on enforcing existing laws, not diverting resources toward a study that may ultimately serve as justification for additional firearm regulations.
3. Slippery Slope Toward More Gun Control – Historically, similar studies have been used as stepping stones toward restrictive legislation. Oregonians should not be subjected to more government overreach under the guise of “efficiency.”

Instead of pursuing SB 243, I urge the legislature to focus on policies that target criminals rather than law-abiding gun owners. Enforcing current firearm laws and addressing crime at its source will do far more for public safety than an unnecessary study.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB 243. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to serving the people of Oregon, and I hope you will recognize the concerns of responsible firearm owners when considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brandi Gould