

## Testimony Opposing Amendments to SB 243

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Greg Fishback. I am the owner and lead instructor at Defensive Arts Center in Beaverton, Oregon, and a certified firearms and defensive tactics trainer. I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed amendments to SB 243.

Let me begin by calling out the legislative sleight-of-hand being used here. The original SB 243 was a narrow, administrative bill related to firearms. What we now see is a sweeping overhaul of Oregon gun laws crammed into a shell of a bill that was never intended to carry this weight. This bait-and-switch tactic-gutting and stuffing a bill in this way-undermines public transparency, denies meaningful input from the people affected, and erodes trust in the legislative process. If these proposals are worth debating, they deserve their own bill and proper public scrutiny. Man up and call it what it is.

Most concerning is the expansion of restrictions on CHL holders in public buildings and grounds. Allowing public agencies, schools, and municipalities to prohibit CHL carry-despite the state's licensing process and background checks-creates a confusing and inconsistent legal environment. This undermines the value and purpose of the CHL program and penalizes law-abiding citizens who have taken the time to meet the state's high standards for responsible concealed carry.

These restrictions do not increase public safety. In fact, they create soft targets by disarming those who are trained and vetted to carry responsibly. Worse, the bill imposes these rules without statewide consistency, leading to a patchwork of local ordinances that will create legal minefields for permit holders.

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Other concerns include:

- A mandatory 72-hour waiting period even after a successful background check-unnecessary for CHL holders and burdensome in time-sensitive situations such as self-defense needs or temporary relocation.
- Age increase to 21 for most firearm ownership, restricting responsible young adults and impacting shooting sports and legitimate training efforts.
- Data retention and expanded reporting to law enforcement and mental health agencies may result in privacy violations and disproportionate scrutiny of lawful citizens.

While I respect the legislature's desire to reduce gun violence, these proposed amendments go too far in targeting responsible Oregonians. They erode civil liberties, complicate lawful carry, and penalize compliance-all while doing little to deter criminal misuse of firearms.

I urge you to reconsider these amendments and protect the rights of CHL holders and lawful gun owners across our state.

Sincerely,

Greg Fishback

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