

Submitter: Declan Orth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

While all four components of SB 243 are concerning, the proposed age restrictions would have a particularly negative impact on youth and young adult hunters and sport shooters. Prohibiting the possession of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns overlooks their common and legitimate use in waterfowl, upland bird, and turkey hunting, as well as their role as primary firearms for high school and collegiate sport shooting teams.

Furthermore, the bill's requirement that firearms may only be transferred to a minor by a parent or guardian would effectively prevent firearms training and educational programs—such as the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's shotgun skills courses—from providing temporary firearms to students under 21.

By imposing unnecessary barriers, SB 243 discourages new hunters and sport shooters from participating in these longstanding traditions. For these reasons, I strongly oppose the bill.