

Submitter: Hyon Kahng  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

My name is Hyon Chol Kahng. I'm a gun-owning Democrat and firearm safety educator working with marginalized communities. I strongly oppose SB 243 as amended by the -1 proposal. It mirrors Measure 114's failed policies—litigated, underfunded, and blind to Oregon's real gun violence drivers.

Senators Prozanski, Broadman, Gelser Blouin, and Manning: As Democrats, you value equity, evidence, and constitutional integrity. SB 243 risks all three. It imposes a permit-to-purchase mandate, 72-hour waiting period, thumbprint collection, and expanded data tracking—with no funding or oversight. These changes, rushed in with little notice, shut out public input.

Measure 114 proved this approach flops: 80% of counties lacked capacity, sheriffs faced backlogs, and legal battles drained resources. SB 243 doubles down, inviting more chaos and lawsuits—likely doomed under Bruen. Rural, low-income, and marginalized Oregonians will suffer most, facing delays, travel barriers, and privacy threats from thumbprint retention.

Worse, it ignores root causes. Over 70% of Oregon gun deaths are suicides; many others tie to domestic violence. Permits and waiting periods don't fix that. Proven alternatives do:

- Cure Violence cut Baltimore shootings by 56%.
- Advance Peace slashed homicides in Richmond and Sacramento.
- Chicago CRED halved injuries.
- Focused deterrence worked in Oakland and Boston.

As a progressive gun owner, I see firearms as vital for those the state fails—LGBTQ+ people, people of color, women facing rising violence. Safety and rights can align, but not through bureaucracy.

SB 243 isn't workable, fair, or effective. Vote no and fund what truly saves lives: mental health care and community solutions.

Thank you for your service.