

Submitter: Drake Vidkjer  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am writing to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 243. This bill will do nothing to make us safer, and leads myself and others to feel our elected representatives do not have our priorities in mind. This bill will do nothing but disenfranchise marginalized communities, causing more burden for them to be able to exercise their constitutional rights, especially with the climate created by the current federal administration.

There are a few points that I feel are especially egregious after reading the text of the bill. First, the "permit to purchase" causes undue burden onto those wishing to exercise their constitutional rights, especially those from lower economic levels who may not be able to afford the monetary and time investment needed to acquire a permit. The fact that the permit must be approved by local law enforcement makes this even more concerning, as people of color, and those in the LGBT community will be most affected especially in rural areas of the state where they may already not feel safe or comfortable talking to law enforcement.

Second, I believe restricting adults between the age of 18 and 21 from owning certain firearms goes against the constitution of the United States based on recent court rulings, including the Supreme Court Bruen decision. With this in mind, it feels disingenuous for lawmakers to include this section, knowing there is a high likelihood of it being struck down. All this will do is waste taxpayer money attempting to fight it in court. In addition, I also object to this section on the grounds that citizens from the age of 18 to 21 are legal adults. They may vote, take out loans, operate vehicles, serve in the military and potentially die for our country. Why then do we believe their minds are developed enough for these massive responsibilities, but not for the responsibility of owning a firearm? This is a double standard that is unfair to that portion of the population.

Finally, Section 7 of the bill is the part that I wish to let you know that I oppose the most. Restricting law abiding citizens who have concealed weapons permits does nothing to make the location listed, and our communities as a whole safer, as criminals will not follow these laws. All this will do is make people who have gone through the proper processes and are the most capable, people who cannot have even so much as a misdemeanor on their record, into potential felons for stepping off of a sidewalk, or setting even one foot into restricted areas. Once again, this will not stop mass shootings, as those planning to perpetrate such attacks will not abide by these laws, only those who have the potential to stop such attacks will follow these rules.

We cannot have police officers on every street corner, and many would not feel comfortable with this. It is up to each individual to protect themselves until help arrives. What I would like to leave you with is a saying I think about when these sorts of proposals are brought up. "When seconds count, the police are just minutes away".