

Submitter: Stacy Drasen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Date: March 28, 2025

To: Chair Prozanski, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Stacy L Drasen, MD

Subject: Support for SB 243: Preventing Gun Violence

My name is Dr. Stacy Drasen, MD and I am a pediatrician practicing in Portland. I am writing to express my strong support of Senate Bill 243, aimed at preventing gun violence and protecting the health and safety of our children.

My childhood was deeply impacted by the suicide by firearm of my best friend's younger brother. This event tore her family apart and left me haunted by the horror that can unfold in a moment of anger or sadness when a gun is too easy to access. It is well understood that adolescents and young adults are more likely to act impulsively when experiencing distress, sometimes with life-ending consequences. Since the time when this occurred, firearm deaths in children have increased and are now the leading cause of death in children. In 2022, 2,526 children between the ages of 1 and 17 died by a firearm in the United States with fifteen of these children being Oregonians (1,2) This is a tragedy that we have the ability to address, at least to some degree, with better gun laws. In an effort to address these pediatric gun deaths, counseling patients on firearm injury prevention is a routine part of my practice, but this is not enough. My obligation to protect children extends beyond the exam room, and thus I am urging you to support SB 243 because it will help keep the children of Oregon safer.

1. Banning Rapid-Fire Devices (Bump Stocks, Sears & Glock Switches)

Rapid-fire devices create opportunity for mass shootings, including those that occur in schools. Banning such devices would be a long-overdue step in reducing the morbidity and mortality of shooting events.

2. Raising the Age to 21 for Purchase/Ownership of Semi-Automatic Rifles

As previously mentioned, "emerging adults" or late adolescents (18-21) are particularly vulnerable to gun-related injuries and deaths. Impulsivity and risk-taking

are

developmentally normal in this age group but can be dangerous when there is access to lethal means. By raising the age to 21 for the purchase and ownership of semi-

automatic rifles, we would limit the number of firearm tragedies experienced by this age group.

3. Creating a 72-Hour Waiting Period to Purchase a Firearm

As pediatricians, we know all too well that our state is experiencing a mental health crisis. People- particularly youth and young adults- can be especially impulsive during

periods of acute distress. Creating a 72-hour waiting period to purchase firearms would potentially limit the risk of impulsive acts such as suicide and homicide, and it would

allow sufficient time for completion of background checks.

Please help me and my colleagues keep your future voters safe and healthy. I urge you to support SB 243. Thank you for your time and for prioritizing children's health.

References

1. Villarreal S, Kim R, Wagner E, Somayaji N, Davis A, Crifasi CK. Gun Violence in the United States 2022: Examining the Burden Among Children and Teens.

Johns Hopkins

Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; 2024.

2. WISQARS. National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). 2022.

<https://wisqars.cdc.gov/nvdrs/> Domestic violence-related includes: spouse or other intimate partner

(current or ex), parent, child, other relative, and other intimate partner involvement.

3. Lois K. Lee, Eric W. Fleegler, Monika K. Goyal, Kiesha Fraser Doh, Danielle Laraque-Arena, Benjamin D. Hoffman, THE COUNCIL ON INJURY, VIOLENCE, AND POISON

PREVENTION; Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth; Injury Prevention and Harm Reduction. Pediatrics December 2022; 150 (6):e2022060070.

10.1542/peds. 2022-060070