



CITY OF BEND

March 28, 2025

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97701

RE: Support for SB 243 –1 amendment

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

The City of Bend supports the SB 243 –1 amendment. In particular, we support allowing local governments to regulate concealed carry in public buildings and closing background check loopholes. These changes are aligned with the City Council's 2023 –2025 adopted goal to advance local gun safety policies in alignment with state policy changes.

The Bend community has been directly impacted by gun violence. In August 2022, a 20-year-old shooter armed with a shotgun and AR-style rifle opened fire in a Safeway grocery store. Two people died in the shooting. In the fall of 2024, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student brought a loaded handgun to their middle school along with a list of targets. Thankfully, tragedy was averted, but the experience has had lasting impacts on the school and community.

The City of Bend continually works to uphold the health and safety of our community through our services, from transportation to water and wastewater, Police, and Fire & emergency response. We take seriously the importance of prioritizing the safety and security of our public buildings. We urge you to support SB 243 –1 amendment and allow cities to decide at the local level how best to ensure the safety of our public spaces.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "MK", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melanie Kebler  
Mayor  
City of Bend





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