

To the honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Dana Small, I live in Portland, Oregon and I am writing in support of SB 243. I am deeply saddened by the ever-increasing gun violence across the country and in our state, especially guns used in suicide; most people who commit suicide use a gun, especially young people. Waiting 72 hours to receive something you're buying is a very short delay – even Amazon Prime can take longer than that – but every minute is one more minute family, friends, a teacher, or someone in the community could reach out to that person to help turn them away from a tragic and final decision.

A waiting period will not prevent every suicide, but a waiting period also will not prevent any Oregonian from exercising their right to buy a gun. I see some people who argue against a waiting period falsely equating a delay or bureaucratic inconvenience with the denial of that right. Simply put SB 243's waiting period will not prevent a single Oregonian from exercising their right to buy a gun, but has been proven to save lives, which is why I urge you to support this provision.

Oregon is one of about half the states that allows civilians to own machine guns. SB 243 does not change that. In order to own a machine gun, there are additional rules and requirements, which makes sense. Bump stocks and other devices effectively turn ordinary guns into fully automatic machine guns. This is such a glaring loop hole, where someone who may not legally be allowed to own a machine gun can bypass the rules and licensing required by just adding a device to their ordinary gun. Anyone who can legally own a machine gun today will still be able to own one if SB 243 passes. This law will just prohibit people who cannot legally own a machine gun from exploiting a loop hole by turning an ordinary gun into the equivalent of a machine gun.

I've read arguments against the age limits in SB 243 saying it would prohibit 18-20 year olds from owning or possessing guns, but that is simply false. SB 243 explicitly allows 18-20 year olds to possess guns that are given to them by their parent or guardian, or by someone else with the consent of their parent or guardian. SB 243 even allows 18-20 year olds to temporarily possess guns that weren't given to them by their guardian, while they are hunting or at a shooting range. Moreover, SB 243 even allows 18-20 year olds to possess ordinary hunting rifles and shotguns. This law doesn't take away an 18 year old's right to own a gun, it just gives that person's parents or legal guardian more authority to decide if their child is mature and responsible enough for some guns.

Why 21 instead of 18? It's not an arbitrary age that just sounds good. There is statistical data showing that, although 18-20 year olds are just 4% of the population, they commit 18% of all known homicides. This data shows that many 18-20 year olds might not be responsible enough to safely own a gun, but SB 243 wisely lets the parents or guardians make that decision. SB 243 respects and empowers parents and guardians to know what's best for their children.

Oregonians in each community choose the governing bodies who are responsible for their public buildings, so those governing bodies should be able to make the rules for what is and isn't allowed. Those rules should reflect the will of the people in that community, so if one community wants to allow guns in their public buildings their leaders should respect their wishes. Likewise, in other communities, like mine in Multnomah County, which suffers from a disproportionate amount of gun violence, our elected leaders may decide that public buildings should be gun free zones to

protect the safety of the community and the law enforcement officers responsible for protecting us. SB 243 allows each city, county, and district to set the rules that make sense for their community instead of a one-size fits all rule for each place.

I am urging you to please give thoughtful consideration to the actual impact of each provision of SB 243. For too long, many lawmakers have been crippled by organizations like the NRA, which intentionally misinforms their members about gun safety laws. Every time our government looks at any laws addressing gun violence prevention, an army of opponents are activated because they are misled into believing that every gun safety law is an attempt to take away their rights, but that is just a lie.

- SB 243 won't take away anyone's guns, not even machine guns, it just makes sure everyone follows the rules that are already in place.
- SB 243 won't prohibit 18-20 year olds from owning guns, it just makes sure that parents/guardians are the ones making decisions for their kids.
- SB 243's 72 hour waiting period won't stop someone from exercising their constitutional right to buy a gun, it only adds a short delay for a cooling off period, which will prevent tragic mistakes and also give law enforcement time to complete a background check.
- SB 243 won't ban guns in any public buildings, it will give local governments the power to make appropriate decisions for their community.

Please vote yes on SB 243, because it will save lives and it will not interfere with the right to own guns.

Respectfully,

Dana Small