

Submitter: Ted Bell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am asking that my state representatives vote no on this bill.

I am an Oregon native over 75 years old. I have tried to live by and abide by the laws of the United States and the state of Oregon all of my life. I have also owned and used guns of all kinds since I was 8 years old. I remember a time in my school when I was encouraged to take "Hunter Safety" classes and did so. My dad and my brothers were taught proper use of guns all of our young lives. It is sad to see the continued attempts by those who claim to be my "representatives" continue to pass laws that will in affect cause me to be a law breaker. Similar laws have been passed by people who think guns are evil only to be struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States because they are unlawful under the "Constitution of The United States of America".

In my opinion guns are not the problem. Guns can't talk, think, or do anything else without human action. Gun violence is simply a rallying cry by those who want to remove the second amendment protections the citizens of this country including Oregon enjoy. Guns are simply a tool for specific purposes, i.e. hunting, shooting sports, collecting, and of course personal protection. Any tool can be misused and cause harm or even death. Laws similar to this proposed law have been passed in the past. They end up being appealed up to the Supreme Court of the United States, where they very often fail when tested against the second amendment to the constitution, In the end all of the effort and money is a waste, and who's money is it? It is the taxpayer's money not yours. It is shameful that when our state is issuing notices that many departments are running out of money you would spend money on something that has little chance of succeeding and will make no change in the violence you hope to change. Again, the guns are not the issue it is the violent society that you as law makers are making worse with your poorly thought our rules and laws.

For many years I was a hunter and would at times go out in the field and target shoot. I no longer hunt but do go to the range to practice with firearms from time to time. I do own a weapon for personal protection and legally carry. Recently my neighbor was stabbed right out in front of his house by a transient/homeless man. The neighbor was sent to OHSU by LifeFlight and underwent several hours of surgery and several days in the hospital. The attacker was caught and, after fighting with deputies arrested. In my opinion this person should not have been out in the public. I understand that he had been arrested in another county and incarcerated for a similar attack but had been released. The attacker, in my neighbor's case, was found to be mentally incapable of helping in his own defense and was held in jail until he

could be determined capable. Unfortunately, after a year he was required to be released. I believe he is now out of jail, still determined to be unable to participate in his own defense and under supervision. After this incident I was concerned enough for the safety of my family, friends and neighbors I became a "constitutionally protected" armed citizen. I am sad that I was put in this position but felt it was for the good of me, my family and my neighbors. The political climate in this state and country has deteriorated to the point that rule of law has become something that is only used to try to gain against your political opponents and not to protect the citizens of this country and especially this state.

Please vote NO on this bill.

Thank you,
Ted Bell