

Submitter: Jason Scharf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 243. I sat through the hearing on 3/27/25. It seems the majority of the supporting testimony was from individuals who had experienced suicide by someone close to them. While I would never minimize their experiences, I would like to point out something I observed in my former life as a firefighter. The argument in support for SB 243 was largely to create a waiting period so "people in crisis don't have an immediate way to kill themselves". While this may be true, I would like to point out some facts I experienced in almost two decades as a firefighter. Yes, I've seen people use a firearm. It's horrible. But, I've also seen people drive intentionally into a tree. Seen them hang themselves with an extension cord. Seen them overdose on pills. All are horrible, but all were an immediate way to do it. No waiting period for the cord. Pills were prescribed. Who knows, maybe the individual that wrecked intentionally was on their way home from the gun shop and was denied a purchase. My point is, the gun is a tool. Not the reason.

Another point I'd like to make: Why when our generation was in school, was it not uncommon for guns to be at school? Look around the parking lot, see guns in windows, yet no one was getting shot. What has changed? Obviously something. Is it parenting? Is it entertainment/media/violent videos games? Are we over medicating our youth? Whatever it is, it is not the gun. How about we address the root issue and not the tool. Someone testified about gun manufacturers marketing to youth. I've never seen it, but I have seen video games that glorify it. Those are literally for kids. I hate to say it, but crazy is gonna crazy. Take away that tool, they'll come up with another. Literally during the hearing for this bill, news broke of a mass stabbing in Europe. Again, crazy gonna crazy, but you want to take away the ability to defend yourself.

A last point, I would really love for some expert to explain how exactly how putting up a sign stops violence. You can make all the gun free zones you want, all it does is makes them softer targets. The state Capitol was used as an example multiple times in testimony. Ok, unless the plan is to harden all the public places that would ban guns, it's really apples to oranges. The Clackamas Town Center shooting was brought up more than once in testimony. Remember how that was stopped? Yeah, a good guy with a gun. A CHL holder. This bill likely would take away that positive outcome. And that's just one example. It happens over and over every year, but gets no media attention because no one died in the end.

In conclusion, please do NOT pass this bill from committee. Beyond the large amount of technical issues that I didn't even get into, but were brought up by others, I believe

in my soul none of this will have an effect on what you're hoping for in the end.

Thank you