

Submitter: Thomas Peck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

As a concerned Oregonian, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243 (SB 243) due to its unconstitutional overreach, ineffectiveness in enhancing public safety, and unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens. This omnibus gun-control bill infringes on Second Amendment rights and the Oregon Constitution by imposing a 72-hour waiting period, banning “rapid-fire activators,” restricting semi-automatic firearm purchases for those under 21, and expanding gun-free zones. These measures disproportionately penalize responsible gun owners while failing to address criminal behavior.

First, SB 243 violates constitutional protections. The waiting period and age restrictions hinder lawful access to firearms, and the vague definition of “rapid-fire activators” risks criminalizing legal accessories. Expanded gun-free zones undermine concealed handgun licensees’ rights, reducing their affirmative defense to a misdemeanor and creating inconsistent local regulations. The Oregon Court of Appeals’ ruling on Measure 114 does not justify further erosion of our freedoms. Second, the bill lacks evidence of reducing gun violence. Criminals ignore waiting periods and gun-free zones, rendering these provisions ineffective. House Minority Leader Christine Drazan rightly noted that SB 243 “does nothing to make our streets safer.” Oregon’s already stringent gun laws, combined with Measure 114, make this bill redundant and punitive.

Finally, SB 243 imposes administrative and economic burdens on gun dealers and buyers. The waiting period complicates lawful purchases, increasing costs and delays, while the background check study wastes resources on an already functional system. This partisan legislation, consolidating prior anti-gun proposals, prioritizes political agendas over practical solutions.

I urge the Senate Rules Committee to reject SB 243. It fails to enhance safety, infringes on constitutional rights, and burdens Oregonians unnecessarily. Protect our freedoms and focus on enforcing existing laws against criminals, not law-abiding citizens.