

Submitter: Caroline Rauch  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

My name is Caroline Rauch and I am currently a Sophomore at Jesuit High School. I support SB 243 because it will make students like me more safe and less scared to go to school.

SB 243 matters to me because I had a gun scare last summer. While at school for a summer class, I was sitting in a hallway with about six other students doing my homework. Then an alarm started ringing. No words accompanied the blaring noise, only a sense of panic. The heavy metal doors of the hallway slammed shut.

That's when I noticed that none of the other kids could have been older than 11. I was the oldest, and they all looked at me, unsure what to do. I stared back equally confused and terrified. I couldn't figure out what type of alarm this was. I had heard all of the alarms before during drills. They always had an automated voice in between the ringing giving you instructions and telling you what type of emergency had occurred. This time there were no instructions and no information.

My terror intensified tenfold when I considered the possibility that someone with a gun could have broken into the school. There is a gun shop close to my school, maybe someone had a bad day. What if they just walked in, bought a firearm and drove another five minutes to my school?

None of us would have any sort of chance. With a rapid-fire device, it would only take a few seconds. I had seen the photos of school shootings online—was that what I was about to look like?

The alarm was a mistake. Construction workers renovating our gym had accidentally set it off. But the panic that I felt when I thought there might have been an armed intruder at my school was real. Ever since then I've been a gun safety activist with Students Demand Action.

I urge you to pass SB 243. This bill is a step towards a future where the thought of an armed intruder coming on to campus never crosses a student's mind. No one should have to pause to wonder what they would look like shot full of holes, and rapid-fire devices that make shootings more dangerous have no place in our state. SB 243 will help us build a safer future for the next generation.