

Submitter: Dan Linscheid
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 243 due to both its ineffective approach to gun violence and the lack of transparency in its development.

From 2019 to 2023, Oregon suffered 3,125 firearm-related deaths—77% of which were suicides. This stark statistic highlights a mental health crisis, not simply a criminal one. Yet Oregon ranks near the bottom nationally for access to mental health care despite having some of the highest rates of mental illness. Instead of addressing these core issues, SB 243 adds more gun restrictions that are unlikely to prevent suicides or reduce crime.

Equally troubling is the process behind the bill. A 23-page amendment with major policy changes was introduced just one day before the public hearing, replacing a short, study-focused proposal. This tactic effectively shut the public out of the conversation, undermining transparency and public trust.

Oregonians deserve thoughtful, evidence-based policies—not rushed legislation that sidesteps the real problems. I urge you to vote no on SB 243 and instead focus on improving mental health access and community support.

Respectfully,

Dan Linscheid