

Testimony in Opposition to SB 243

Date: March 27, 2025

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

At first glance, SB 243 may appear harmless. It simply directs the Oregon State Police to “study whether the process for conducting criminal background checks for firearm transfers can be made more efficient.” That doesn’t sound threatening. But when you look closer—especially the part where it says the department “*may include recommendations for legislation*”—it becomes clear this is about more than just a study.

This is how it always starts.

We’ve seen this approach before: pass a vague bill that sounds procedural, use taxpayer dollars to produce a report, then return in a future session using that report to justify new restrictions—ones the public had no say in and never agreed to.

I live under the constitutional framework as our Founders intended. That framework does not permit open-ended studies to be used as backdoors to policy that infringes on individual liberty. Firearm ownership is not a privilege to be studied into compliance—it’s a right that government has a duty to respect.

If this legislature believes changes need to be made to the background check process, bring those proposals forward directly, in full view of the public. Don’t hide the intent behind a study.

I respectfully ask you to vote no on SB 243.

Thank you.

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