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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Let's talk about the elephant in the room here—the balance between allowing an industry that is conclusively fueling violence in our state and the responsibility to pass common sense laws that are not gun control but are a well reasoned, data supported effort to protect the public .

We heard testimony from the NRA here last week that it is important that the firearm industry was responsible for \$90 billion in annual economic activity. Gun violence costs however are much greater from every aspect. The estimates are that the cost of gun violence in the US is \$557 billion every year. Let's remember, altho so incredibly painful, that on May 24, 2022, an 18-year-old boy shot 38 people, 21 fatally, including 19 children and two teachers— in Uvalde, Texas with two assault rifles he bought on his 18th birthday. This one horrific incident of gun violence caused unspeakable tragedy, but also an estimated \$244.2 million price tag. And there has been too little done since to prevent more tragedies in more schools and more children and more teachers lost.

Gun manufacturers refuse to innovate toward safety and continue to avoid the same accountability that we require of the automotive, tobacco, and pharmaceutical industries. Instead, they continue to manufacture increasingly deadly products, including military-style, high-capacity weapons and those designed for concealment.

The gun industry could prioritize safety over sales, they can market products responsibly and honestly—and not target children. They can stop innovating for the sake of profits, and increased lethality, and instead start using available technology to make firearms safer.

This bill is due: it is time to stop the tyranny of the vocal minority coupled with the gun industry that allow deaths to go on. The fear of hypothetical gun control should no longer override the reality that Oregonians are dying senselessly and that gun violence is preventable. We are obligated as citizens to do something. We, the majority, need to speak up, make our voices heard, work with responsible gun owners, propose solutions and take actions like this omnibus bill. THANKYOU