

Submitter: Vance Chauncey  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB243

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 243-1. While I understand that supporters of the bill argue it will reduce impulsive gun purchases and curb gun violence, I am deeply concerned that its provisions will impose undue restrictions on law-abiding Oregonians without addressing the true causes of firearm-related deaths.

First, the bill mandates a 72-hour waiting period between the time a dealer requests a criminal background check and when a firearm may be purchased. In practice, this delay may hinder individuals who urgently require protection—such as victims of stalking or domestic violence—from acquiring a means of self-defense in a timely manner. Moreover, it is unclear that such a waiting period will have any significant effect on reducing gun violence, especially given that current background checks are already rigorous.

Second, SB 243-1 would ban certain rapid-fire attachments and restrict firearm purchases for individuals under 21. The available data indicate that most firearm deaths in Oregon result from suicide rather than criminal violence. By focusing on restrictions that primarily affect law-abiding citizens, the bill overlooks the need to address mental health challenges and other underlying factors driving these tragedies. Rather than placing further burdens on responsible gun owners, I believe efforts should be directed toward improving mental health services and community support systems.

Finally, the abrupt changes in the bill—such as the last-minute inclusion of sweeping restrictions—undermine transparency and public input in our democratic process. Law-abiding citizens deserve a meaningful opportunity to engage in discussion before measures that restrict their constitutional rights are enacted.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 243-1 and instead pursue policy solutions that address the root causes of gun violence without penalizing responsible gun owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.