



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

May 12, 2025

To: [Senator Kayse Jama](#), Chair, [Senate Committee on Rules](#)

Re: [SB 243 A](#) – Relating to firearm regulations – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly supports SB 243 A, based on our longstanding position that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons is a major health and safety threat to our communities. We believe that this bill provides common sense steps forward toward the prevention of gun violence in our state.

The first section of the bill, “Dealer Purchase Waiting Period,” which requires a gun dealer to wait 72 hours after the receipt of a background approval number before transferring a firearm, achieves two goals. It ensures that a background check is completed, thus overriding the “default proceed” loophole (aka Charleston Loophole) in federal law. More importantly, the 72-hour wait saves lives, as shown in research by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions (CGVS). This “cooling off” period reduces impulsivity and allows individuals time to reconsider their actions, whether it be criminal behavior, mental instability, or suicide ideation. An analysis of state-level mandatory waiting periods from 1970 to 2014 found that waiting periods are associated with a 17% reduction in gun homicides and a 7-11% reduction in firearm suicides.

We also support the section on “Rapid Fire Activators,” which places a ban on rapid fire devices, such as bump stocks and Glock switches that allow semi-automatic firearms to function like automatic weapons. It is our view that there is no legitimate reason for civilians to transport, manufacture, or transfer devices that enable semi-automatic rifles to fire at rates as high as 400 to 800 rounds per minute. In 2017, a gunman in Las Vegas used firearms equipped with bump stocks to fire more than 1,000 bullets, kill 60 people, and wound hundreds of others. A statewide ban on rapid fire activators has become more urgent since the 2024 US Supreme Court ruling in *Garland v Cargill* that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives exceeded its statutory authority in 2018 when it issued a rule classifying a bump stock as a “machine gun.” However, this federal ruling does not apply to states that have passed laws banning such rapid-fire devices. Currently, 16 states have done so, including Washington and California, and it is time for Oregon to do the same.

Lastly, we concur with the changes in the law under the section “Public Area Restrictions.” We believe that firearms should be prohibited in certain sensitive public areas as a matter of public safety. During previous sessions, we have supported laws banning firearms at specific locations, including the Oregon Capitol, Portland International Airport (PDX), and schools and universities that have made the decision to become “gun free zones”. This bill expands the number of public entities that may adopt a policy, ordinance, or regulation that prohibits firearms, even for holders of CHLs, within buildings and adjacent grounds. We believe the reasons for including CHL holders in firearm prohibitions at certain locations are valid ones.

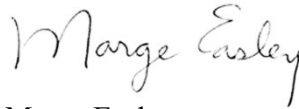
Today 1 in 17 Oregonians, or a total of 325,000 adults, has a CHL. Live fire training is not required to obtain a CHL, since one can fulfill the educational requirement by completing the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) online firearm safety [course](#). During moments of crisis, such as a mass shooting, it is critically important for law enforcement members and security personnel to find and apprehend a shooter as quickly as possible. It makes their job more difficult and more dangerous if they are unable to distinguish between the actual shooter and a CHL holder who may be brandishing a firearm.

Although many will argue that gun regulations such as those in SB 243 A are unconstitutional, we concur with Justice Scalia's words in the 2008 D.C. v Heller decision: the Second Amendment does not bestow an unlimited right to "keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

We urge your support for SB 243 A and thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Lisa Bentson
President, LWVOR



Marge Easley
LWVOR Action Committee Member