



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2025

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### **Oregon Senate Takes Action for Community Safety**

*Senate Bill 243 prohibits deadly rapid-fire devices and lets communities decide whether guns can come inside their city halls*

**SALEM, OR** – Oregon Senate Democrats put safety first for Oregonians today, passing legislation to prohibit the devices that turn semi-automatic weapons into fully automatic firearms and to let local governments decide whether to allow guns inside official meeting locations.

“Being elected to serve means guarding the people who put their trust in us: protecting their safety, defending their rights, and leading with humility and common sense,” said **Senator Anthony Broadman (D – Bend)**. “As a father, a hunter, a responsible gun owner, and an Oregon Senator, I know Senate Bill 243 honors that responsibility.”

The measure, also known as the Community Safety Firearms Act, is a step toward lowering violent crime, easing fears of mass shootings, and allowing people to visit their local leaders and attend government meetings without a threat of gun violence.

“Rapid-fire activators are simply tools of mass destruction and do not belong in our communities,” said **Senator Floyd Prozanski (D – Eugene & Springfield)**, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and chief sponsor of the measure.

Until this legislation, cities and counties have not had the authority under Oregon law to keep concealed handgun license holders from bringing guns into community meeting rooms, and devices that cause mass carnage with little effort have been completely legal in our state.

“It’s time to call these devices what they are. They give legal firearms the same dangerous abilities as machine guns,” said **Senator Lisa Reynolds, MD (D – Portland)**. “If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it’s probably a machine gun.”

Oregon has more gun deaths per capita than the national average, exceeding rates in New York, New Jersey, California, and Washington. There has been a 140 percent increase in Oregon gun deaths over the past decade, and research shows 50 percent of kids worry every week about school shootings.

“We deserve the freedom to move about our lives in safety and free from fear,” said **Senator Janeen Sollman (D – Hillsboro, Forest Grove & Rock Creek)**. “As a legislator, mom and grandma, I am dedicated to addressing public safety by using my voice and supporting common sense gun violence prevention.”

The Community Safety Firearms Act passed 17 to 12 and now moves to the Oregon House of Representatives.

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