

RE: HB4145

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the consideration of HB4145, I'd simply like to share my opinions and thoughts about the bill as a whole, the way it's written and about other similar bills that either have already passed into Oregon law, or will be submitted in the future.

Most Oregonians would agree that domestic violence in any form is an atrocious and despicable affront to decency, and our God-given right as Americans (and Oregonians) to be free from physical abuse. Domestic violence is an assault on what I'd consider to be the very most basic of human rights – the right to be safe.

Full disclosure: I am a firearms owner & enthusiast. I'm a law-abiding citizen and a proud American. I also believe it is imperative that Oregonians make educated choices about the laws we pass, so we can be damn sure they will be used for and in the manner we expect them to be.

The bill, HB4145, as written, is too broad in some aspects, ineffective in others, and ultimately is law that could easily be wielded as a powerful weapon against an angry spouse, family member, ex-wife/husband/girlfriend/boyfriend/et al.

The main issue I take w/ bills of this type is exactly that: Potential for abuse. Potential for an Oregonian...an American...to be stripped, whether permanently or not, of his or her God-given and Constitutionally affirmed right to bear arms, without FIRST a conviction or clear evidence that said person is even a potential risk.

We can't strip a person of Constitutional rights because "Maybe they'll do something stupid or violent", or "He/She might pose a threat". We don't do that in America. We don't punish w/o conviction here – it's what justice means; freedom from punishment not deserved.

The bill needs work. Dangerous and violent individuals don't often honor court orders, do they?

As written, this bill is simply too broad and potentially dangerous. Please consider a total re-write, heavy edits, or trashing it in favor of a fair course of action, instead.

Respectfully,

Tom Homan