



To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Imagine Black

Re: Oppose SB 348

Date: March 27, 2023

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Danita Harris, and I am the Deputy Director of Movement Building for Imagine Black. We are a Black-led Oregon non-profit focused on building political power for Black Oregonians. We do this, in part, by seeking to center Black Oregonians in policy and justice conversations.

It is for that reason that I provide this testimony today. Imagine Black opposed Measure 114, not because we disagree with the intent, but because the measure presented problems for our community. We worked in community with others to develop a plan that would honor the intent of the Measure 114 petitioners while protecting Second Amendment rights and the safety of our communities.

First, we know that benign interactions between Black people and police heighten the chances that Black people will be targeted for police harassment and arrest, even when they've done nothing wrong. For this reason, we believe that the permitting process must be accessible without direct interaction with the police and recommend using the DMV. The DMV is a more accessible place for Oregonians, especially Black Oregonians, to file paperwork and engage with the state government through official channels. The DMV already houses a repository of information used by various law enforcement agencies, the division of child support, and others. We would be open to adding other access points, such as Oregon State Police offices, law enforcement agency offices, and county clerks, as we believe more access is better for Oregonians.

Additionally, we ask that the permitting process be standardized for all gun owners across the State and that the scope of the questions asked of applicants be limited to those directly related to the purview and expertise of law enforcement. As part of this, we would ask that the permitting training requirements include safe storage and suicide prevention trainings. These trainings are already readily available and can be integrated into these requirements. Many of those who have worked on this idea have personal experience with suicidal ideation and/or living with the death of a loved one by suicide. We should teach gun owners how to keep themselves and others safe, even amid suicidal crises.

Furthermore, we recommend that the law's implementation be delayed to accommodate the time needed to operate these systems. We would oppose legislation that doesn't include this delay, as we do not want to totally eliminate access to firearm purchases while the system is being implemented.



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Lastly, we request that the legislative fix include an equity analysis. It will be imperative that we carefully consider the impacts of the law, and that a future legislature would have the information needed to make adjustments if needed.

There are additional areas where there are opportunities for collaboration and solution development that will make all of us safer, such as whether to keep or eliminate the on-the-spot NICS checks, whether, when, and how State Police should engage with local jurisdictions in the permitting process, and how third-party fingerprinting can be used in this process for accessibility.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danita Harris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Danita Harris, Deputy Director of Movement Building  
Imagine Black