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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

reasoned critique.

Oregon House Bill 3075 (HB3075) represents an alarming escalation in the state's efforts to restrict firearm ownership under the guise of public safety. Introduced in the 2025 legislative session, this bill modifies the already contentious Ballot Measure 114 (2022), which narrowly passed and remains embroiled in legal challenges. Far from a reasonable compromise, HB3075 doubles down on flawed policies, infringing on the rights of law-abiding Oregonians while failing to address the root causes of violence. It is a clear overreach of government authority and should be opposed.

First, HB3075 undermines the Second Amendment rights of Oregon citizens. The bill extends the waiting period for firearm permit approvals from 30 to 60 days and doubles the associated fees, placing an undue burden on individuals exercising a constitutional right. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently affirmed that the right to keep and bear arms is fundamental, yet HB3075 treats it as a privilege to be rationed by bureaucratic hurdles. For many, especially those in rural areas or facing immediate safety concerns, these delays and costs could mean the difference between self-defense and vulnerability. The bill's emergency clause, which allows it to take effect immediately upon the governor's signature, further stifles public recourse, bypassing the democratic process and ongoing court challenges to Measure 114.

Second, HB3075 disproportionately harms low-income Oregonians. By increasing fees and extending wait times, the legislation creates a financial and logistical barrier that favors the affluent. Rights should not be contingent on wealth, yet this bill effectively prices out those who cannot afford the added costs or time away from work to navigate the system. This regressive approach exposes the hypocrisy of its proponents, who often champion equity but ignore the real-world impact on marginalized communities.

Third, the bill's practical effectiveness is dubious at best. Proponents argue it will reduce gun violence, but evidence suggests otherwise. Criminals, by definition, do not abide by permitting laws, and Oregon's existing background check system already filters out prohibited buyers. HB3075 piles on redundant regulations without addressing mental health, enforcement gaps, or illegal firearm trafficking—issues far more relevant to violence prevention. Instead, it punishes the compliant, leaving law-abiding citizens defenseless while criminals remain unchecked.

Finally, HB3075's attempt to circumvent judicial oversight is a power grab. Measure 114's implementation was halted by a Harney County judge, reflecting serious constitutional concerns. Rather than respecting this process, HB3075 rewrites the rules to dodge injunctions and fast-track enforcement. This move erodes trust in government and signals contempt for both the judiciary and the electorate.

Oregonians deserve policies that respect their rights, prioritize fairness, and target actual threats. HB3075 fails on all counts. It is an unconstitutional, inequitable, and ineffective measure that punishes the innocent while letting real problems fester. Lawmakers should reject this bill and focus on solutions that uphold liberty and deliver results, not rhetoric.