

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

Hello, my name is Fisher Shattuck and I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB3075. The law as written is concerning for a number of reasons: firstly, it would make criminals of people who had legally bought greater-than-10-round magazines after Measure 114's stay while under the impression that they were still legal to purchase and who are otherwise fully law-abiding. This violates the clauses in both the US and Oregon state constitutions that prohibit ex post facto laws. Second, the grounds on which a permit may be denied are vague enough to be open to abuse, allowing room for individual prejudice to sway potential issuance decisions rather than fair application of any sort of rigorous and even standard. Historically, vaguely worded laws such as this have enabled discrimination against protected classes across the country as well as within our state, meaning this would be no different. Third, the law would create substantial financial barriers to exercising the right to bear arms, which would help to disarm those most impacted by crime (burglary, muggings, assaults, etc. - which overwhelmingly impact the poor) while providing no meaningful barrier to those who would be committing those crimes.

Anecdotally speaking, several people I know who previously showed no interest in firearms have sought to purchase them for self defense in the last five years due to fear of growing political polarization. Preventing or obstructing them from obtaining the means to defend themselves does not eliminate that fear, nor does it make our communities safer; on the contrary, it fosters uncertainty and anxiety. If the goal of this bill's sponsors is to create safer communities, then it would be advisable to first make sure Oregon's existing laws - such as its extant system of background checks - are enforced, or the root causes of the aforementioned fears examined and addressed, rather than simply disarming everyone and washing your hands of the issue. There are many ways to make our communities safer and bring us together over our divisions - this should not be one of them.

Thank you for your time,
Fisher Shattuck