

Honorable members of the Oregon House Judiciary committee, I am writing to oppose HB 3075. If amended to drop all text after Section 1, I could support this bill, but I cannot support this bill as written.

As with all bills that put a needless burden on an individual right, this bill will disproportionately impact members of marginalized communities. Should this bill become law, all Oregonians will have fewer rights. However, those with the time and resources to comply with the law will enjoy more rights than those who cannot overcome the barriers put in place by HB 3075.

Your constituents are demanding what our Constitution safeguards, equal protection under the law. HB 3075 creates a system whereby the permitting agent can deny an applicant based on the “applicant’s mental or psychological state.” This clause opens the door for the permitting agent to deny an applicant’s rights based on biases or prejudices that the permitting agent may consciously or unconsciously possess. Study the outcomes of any similarly structured law and you will find that those denied are disproportionately of certain ethnic or racial backgrounds. Why create another opportunity for state-sanctioned discrimination?

Furthermore, HB 3075 will divert law enforcement resources from catching criminals to processing paperwork for citizens who are exercising a right protected by both Oregon and U.S. Constitutions. The citizens who submit to HB 3075 will be overwhelmingly law abiding. All of the paperwork that is created by this bill will not deter, catch, or punish criminals.

Finally, HB 3075 creates additional work for law enforcement, but appropriates no funds to carry out the work. The fees charged to process the applications will not cover the labor needed. Many police departments and county sheriff’s offices are stretched thin. Forced to choose between catching criminals and processing paperwork, many agencies will rightly choose to delay or forego the paperwork, resulting in applicants’ rights being denied.

I have highlighted a few of HB 3075’s many flaws. Please do not attempt to fix the flaws in HB 3075, they are inherent to its nature. The only rational, just, and responsible thing to do with HB 3075 is vote no.

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