

To: Oregon House Committee on Judiciary

From: George Shepherd

Date: February 2, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to House Bill 4145

Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee:

My name is George Shepherd, and I am writing to express my firm opposition to HB 4145. While framed as a legislative "fix," this bill creates a dangerous and unconstitutional double standard for Oregonians.

1. Violation of Article I, Section 20

The Oregon Constitution explicitly prohibits granting "privileges or immunities" to one class of citizens that are not available to all. By exempting retired law enforcement and retired probation officers from magazine capacity limits and permit requirements for recreational use, HB 4145 creates a tiered system of citizenship. For example, a retired official could use a standard-capacity magazine on public lands like the Tillamook Forest, while a law-abiding civilian doing the exact same thing would face criminal charges. Conduct should not be criminalized based on a person's former job title.

2. Financial and Administrative Barriers

The bill significantly increases permit and renewal fees, raising the initial cost from \$65 to \$150 and the renewal fee from \$50 to \$110. As a low-income Oregonian, I find these price hikes especially exclusionary; for many of us, a 130% increase turns a fundamental right into a luxury we can no longer afford. These financial barriers disproportionately impact those living in high-crime areas who may have the greatest need for self-defense. Furthermore, doubling the permit review window to 60 days acts as a bureaucratic deterrent. A right delayed is a right denied.

Conclusion

We cannot claim to value equality while passing laws that exempt a certain group of citizens from the very rules that apply to the rest of us. If the state believes that "standard" capacity magazines are necessary for the self-defense of retired officials, it is an admission that they are necessary for the self-defense of all law-abiding citizens. I urge you to uphold the Oregon Constitution and vote NO on HB 4145.

Respectfully,

George Shepherd