

Submitter:

Christina Forton

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

I am a mother of four children. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB 4145.

As a parent, my top priority is the safety, freedom, and future of my children. I want to raise them to understand their constitutional rights, personal responsibility, and the importance of protecting themselves and others. HB 4145 moves Oregon in the opposite direction by adding more red tape, higher costs, and longer delays for law-abiding families, while doing little to stop criminals.

This bill will disproportionately harm families, LGBTQ+ individuals, and minority communities who already face higher risks of violence and harassment. Many parents, including myself, seek lawful firearm ownership for personal and family protection, especially when facing credible threats or long emergency response times. Extending the permit process to 60 days and increasing fees could leave families unprotected during critical moments, when safety cannot wait.

Higher fees create economic barriers, turning a fundamental right into a privilege for those who can afford it. Families are already struggling with rising housing, food, childcare, and healthcare costs. Adding more financial hurdles simply to exercise our rights is unfair and unnecessary.

The expansion of government data collection also raises serious privacy concerns. I do not want my family's personal information stored in long-term government databases, vulnerable to misuse, breaches, or political targeting. Teaching my children to value liberty means being cautious about unnecessary government surveillance of law-abiding citizens.

There is no clear evidence that longer waiting periods, higher fees, or expanded permitting systems reduce violent crime. Criminals do not follow these laws. Instead, these policies burden responsible parents and families who are simply trying to keep their loved ones safe.

Public safety should focus on violent offenders, domestic violence prevention, mental health resources, and community-based safety programs, not on expanding bureaucracy that restricts responsible citizens.

As a mother of four who values both safety and freedom, I respectfully urge the committee to vote NO on HB 4145.