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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Opposition to
Oregon HB 4145

Misuse of
Emergency Powers
and Legislative
Overreach

To Whom It May Concern:
I strongly oppose Oregon
House Bill 4145 in its current
form. While framed as a
modification to ballot
Measure 114's firearm
permitting and restrictions,
the bill represents a deeply
flawed and coercive
legislative strategy that
undermines democratic
principles, the rule of law, and
fundamental rights.

1. Misuse of an
Emergency Clause to
Sidestep Public
Scrutiny and
Referendum
HB 4145 includes
an emergency clause that
would make the bill effective
immediately upon signature
by the Governor. This tactic is
fundamentally inappropriate
for legislation with such
sweeping impacts on
constitutional rights and
public policy. An emergency
clause is intended for true
emergencies - unexpected,
urgent public safety threats
not politically contentious

policy changes. Its inclusion here appears designed to prevent meaningful public review and to evade the safeguards of Oregon's referendum process, effectively denying voters the opportunity to challenge the law.

Using emergency language as a legislative shortcut undermines transparency, accountability, and the public's trust in our democratic institutions. It sets a dangerous precedent where any majority in the Legislature could declare ordinary policy disputes to be "emergencies" abolishing meaningful civic engagement and voter oversight.

2. Substantial Expansion of Bureaucratic Power and Burden on LawAbiding Citizens

HB 4145 does far more than correct technical issues - it fundamentally alters the structure and burden of firearm permitting. It doubles the permit processing time from 30 to 60 days and raises permit fees dramatically, imposing significant financial and administrative barriers on lawful firearm ownership.

These changes were not presented to Oregon voters directly and represent a substantive policy shift.

3. Unjustified Exemptions and

Inequalities

The bill reportedly contains broad exemptions - including for active and retired law enforcement - allowing them to possess large-capacity magazines even in off-duty or recreational situations while imposing restrictions on ordinary citizens. This creates a tiered system of rights and privileges, contravening the principle of equal treatment under the law.

4. Reduction of Legal Recourse

HB 4145 also appears to require that legal challenges must be brought in Marion County, regardless of where an individual resides. This arbitrary jurisdictional limitation is a thinly veiled attempt to impede access to justice and discourage challenges by creating geographic barriers to litigation.

5. Undermining Citizen Ballot Measures

Measure 114 was approved by Oregon voters, albeit narrowly, and remains subject to judicial review. Rather than allowing the legal process to play out, HB 4145 seeks to legislate around the courts and to rewrite a voter-approved measure without direct consent of the people. Immediate enactment via an emergency clause circumvents the very referendum protections that

are central to Oregon's constitutional framework.

Conclusion

HB 4145, as drafted, is not a mere technical cleanup or public safety enhancement. It is a partisan, heavy-handed rewrite of firearm policy that:

- Exploits emergency
- legislation mechanisms to bypass public scrutiny and referendum rights.
- Imposes new financial and bureaucratic burdens on lawful citizens.
- Grants unequal privileges to select classes of individuals while restricting others.
- Limits access to justice through forced venue provisions.

For these reasons, I urge legislators to oppose HB 4145 outright, remove any emergency clause, and instead engage in a transparent, deliberative legislative process that respects both the rule of law and the rights of all Oregonians.