

Submitter:

James Kister

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Dear Representatives,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to urge you to reconsider any support for Oregon HB 4145. While I understand the stated intent of improving public safety, several provisions in this bill raise serious civil rights, equity, and constitutional concerns.

First, HB 4145 allows firearm permits to be denied based on subjective law enforcement judgment, even in the absence of a criminal conviction or clear, objective standards. This opens the door to denials based on constitutionally protected activities such as attending a protest, expressing dissenting political views, or criticizing the government online. Discretionary systems like this have historically led to inconsistent enforcement, implicit bias, and discrimination—particularly against marginalized communities, people with disabilities, and those holding unpopular political viewpoints. A right that depends on subjective approval is not meaningfully a right at all.

Second, the bill significantly increases both costs and delays for permit applicants. Fees of up to \$150, renewal costs up to \$110, and an extended approval window of up to 60 days will disproportionately harm low-income Oregonians. These barriers will have little impact on wealthy individuals, but they can be prohibitive for working-class people—who are also statistically more likely to be victims of violent crime and therefore have a strong interest in timely self-defense options.

Finally, this is not the moment to further restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens. Many Democrats, myself included, are deeply concerned about the expanding power and lack of accountability of federal law enforcement agencies. Disarming citizens in blue states while abuses of power continue at the federal level makes communities more vulnerable, not safer. This bill risks alienating Democratic voters who believe in civil liberties, bodily autonomy, and constitutional protections across the board. I strongly believe support for HB 4145 will cost votes in future elections.

I urge all of you to oppose HB 4145 or work to substantially amend it to remove subjective permit denials, reduce financial barriers, and protect the rights of ordinary Oregonians. I hope you will stand for fairness, equity, and constitutional principles.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A Democrat from Portland