

Submitter:

Wayne Abbe

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing as a concerned Oregon resident and law-abiding firearm owner to strongly urge you to OPPOSE House Bill 4145. This legislation represents yet another attempt to impose restrictive gun control measures that burden Second Amendment rights without meaningfully addressing public safety, while also creating unfair exemptions and overriding aspects of voter-approved (and legally contested) Ballot Measure 114.

Ballot Measure 114, passed narrowly in 2022, has faced ongoing legal challenges in Oregon courts, including questions about its constitutionality under both state and federal law. Rather than waiting for resolution or respecting the judicial process, HB 4145 pushes forward with modifications that make compliance more burdensome for everyday citizens:

It doubles the time allowed for processing firearm purchase permits from 30 to 60 days, creating unnecessary delays that could prevent qualified individuals from exercising their constitutional rights in a timely manner.

It increases the permit fee by over 130% (from \$65 to \$150), adding a financial barrier that disproportionately affects lower-income Oregonians who seek to lawfully purchase firearms for self-defense, hunting, or sport.

It provides sweeping exemptions for active and retired law enforcement officers from both the permit requirement and large-capacity magazine restrictions, creating a two-tiered system where certain individuals are granted privileges denied to ordinary citizens. This undermines the principle of equal protection under the law.

Other changes, such as delaying full enforcement until January 1, 2028, appear designed to implement restrictions piecemeal while avoiding full accountability.

These provisions do not enhance safety; they infringe on the fundamental right to keep and bear arms, as protected by the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions. Law-abiding citizens should not face escalating bureaucratic hurdles, higher costs, or unequal treatment when criminals ignore such laws entirely. Oregon already has robust background check systems, and further restrictions like these have not proven effective in reducing crime in other jurisdictions.

HB 4145 overrides the will of voters on Measure 114 by rewriting key elements without public approval and expands government overreach. I respectfully ask that you vote NO on this bill and prioritize measures that respect constitutional rights, promote fairness, and focus on prosecuting violent offenders rather than penalizing responsible gun owners.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge the committee to reject HB 4145.

Please include my testimony in opposition in the official record. I am available to provide additional information if needed.

Sincerely,
Wayne Abbe