

Submitter: Austin Sumpter

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: Support for House Bill 4145

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Austin Sumpter. I live in the outskirts of Canby in rural Clackamas County, Oregon, specifically in Senate District 26 and House District 51. I testify today to express my support for House Bill 4145 to make adjustments to the permit-to-purchase provision under Ballot Measure 114.

In 2022, I voted in support of Measure 114 amidst the backdrop of mass shootings that have plagued our nation for a decade. Twelve people killed by gunfire in Aurora, Colorado on July 20, 2012; Twenty-six people killed by gunfire in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012; Fourteen people killed by gunfire in San Bernardino, California on December 2, 2015; Twenty-six people killed by gunfire in Sutherland Springs, Texas on November 5, 2017; Seventeen people killed by gunfire in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018; Eleven people killed by gunfire in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 27, 2018; Seven people killed by gunfire in Midland, Texas on August 31, 2019; Thirteen people killed by gunfire in Buffalo, New York on May 14, 2022; and 21 people killed by gunfire in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, 2022. Even Oregon has been subjected to a mass shooting within that time period, including nine people killed by gunfire at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg on October 1, 2015.

That lengthy list, of course, excludes other mass shootings and many more people who were unjustly taken from our world too soon. Kids who will never get to graduate, join the workforce, or contribute to society. Adults who leave behind families and communities that had been pillars to. I sought to do my part to help prevent future losses, which culminated in me helping the passage of Ballot Measure 114. Commonsense measures like its permit-to-purchase requirement can be an essential part of helping limit the number of guns that end up in unqualified hands. Think of it this way: We do not trust people to drive cars without a driver's license. We would not want to go to a store or a restaurant that failed a health inspection, nor would we want to be treated by medical personnel who lack the full credentials required. The permit-to-purchase requirement in Measure 114 will do

something very similar in helping to ensure that guns are provided to people who are fully screened and versed in the responsibilities and burdens of gun ownership. Training would include people who do not have criminal records or tendencies, and it would require people to learn how gun violence impacts families and communities.

It is not lost on me that Measure 114 has faced some challenges, starting in the 24th Circuit Court in Burns and ultimately going to the Oregon Supreme Court. I will accept whatever ruling the Oregon Supreme Court dares to issue on the measure, but operating on the assumption it's upheld, passing House Bill 4145 will help to clear up when we can implement this measure's permit-to-purchase requirement and carry out the will of Oregon's voters following Measure 114's passage. While it is true that it will not prevent every shooting, it will still save Oregonians' lives. Please do something life-saving this session and pass House Bill 4145.