

Submitter:

Joseph Tjaarda

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing as a law-abiding Oregon resident to strongly oppose HB 4145. This bill violates Article I, Section 27 of the Oregon Constitution ("The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence of themselves, and the State") and the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It improperly converts a fundamental right into a government-issued permission slip, complete with fees, training mandates, and bureaucratic delays. The bill grants special exemptions and permissions to active and retired law enforcement officers (including qualified retired officers under federal law), allowing them to purchase firearms and possess large-capacity magazines without the restrictions imposed on ordinary citizens. This creates an unconstitutional class-based privilege. While the legislation effectively treats large-capacity magazines as "weapons of war" unfit for civilians, it allows retired law enforcement officers to keep and use them at any time, on or off duty. This is inconsistent and discriminatory. Additionally, the bill fails to adequately grandfather or exempt existing concealed handgun license (CHL) holders, who have already completed rigorous background checks, safety training, and qualification processes. Personally, I have completed NRA-certified firearms instruction, successfully obtained and maintained a concealed handgun license after passing all requirements, and have no felony convictions or disqualifying factors. HB 4145 would unnecessarily burden me by turning my constitutional right into a revocable permission, imposing higher fees and additional hurdles.

I urge you to reject HB 4145 in its entirety and protect the rights of Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Joseph Tjaarda