

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4145 – Oregon Firearm Permit Revisions

Law-abiding citizens are not the individuals committing violent crimes in Oregon. Criminals, by definition, do not follow laws. Creating additional permits, restrictions, and bureaucratic hurdles does not stop criminals—it only places new burdens on people who already obey the law.

Crime is not reduced by continuously passing new laws that affect lawful firearm owners. Crime is reduced by enforcing existing laws and prosecuting offenders to the fullest extent allowed. Oregon already has extensive firearm regulations in place. The issue is not a lack of legislation, but a lack of consistent enforcement and accountability for those who commit crimes.

HB 4145 will turn otherwise law-abiding citizens into criminals through paperwork requirements, delays, and administrative penalties, while doing nothing to stop illegal gun possession, gang violence, or black-market gun trafficking. This legislation punishes responsible citizens instead of addressing the real sources of gun crime.

This measure directly conflicts with the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, which clearly states that the right of the people to keep and bear arms “shall not be infringed.” By imposing additional barriers and discretionary permissions on a fundamental right, HB 4145 infringes upon constitutionally protected liberties and is therefore unconstitutional in both intent and effect.

Oregonians should not be required to seek government permission or prove their innocence to exercise a fundamental right. Rights are not privileges, and they must not be treated as such.

If the Legislature’s true goal is public safety, efforts should be directed toward enforcing existing laws, prosecuting violent and repeat offenders, and targeting illegal gun trafficking and straw purchasing. Public safety will not be achieved by penalizing responsible citizens or criminalizing lawful behavior.

Stop penalizing the people who follow the law. Stop creating criminals out of good citizens. Start holding actual criminals accountable.

For these reasons, I strongly urge opposition to HB 4145.