

Submitter:

Cody James

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4096

I write in vehement, uncompromising opposition to House Bill 4145, a cynical, elitist piece of legislation rushed in on day one of the 2026 session to resurrect and worsen the already disastrous Ballot Measure 114. This bill doesn't "fix" anything — it doubles down on failed gun control schemes, mocks the will of voters, creates a two-tiered system favoring government insiders, and erects massive barriers to law-abiding citizens exercising their fundamental right to keep and bear arms. HB 4145 is garbage legislation masquerading as reform. Here's why it deserves outright rejection:

It triples down on unconstitutional permitting schemes. By delaying the permit-to-purchase mandate until January 1, 2028 (admitting the state can't even implement Measure 114 properly), while simultaneously expanding it, the bill confesses its own impracticality. Oregonians shouldn't have to beg bureaucrats for permission to buy a tool of self-defense. This isn't safety — it's prior restraint on a constitutional right.

Massive fee hikes and endless delays punish the law-abiding. Jacking the permit fee from \$65 to \$150 (a 130%+ increase) and doubling the processing time to 60 days is nothing short of a poll tax on the Second Amendment. These changes weren't voter-approved in Measure 114 — they're legislative overreach designed to price out working families, rural residents, and anyone not wealthy enough to navigate the red tape. If the goal is fewer legal gun owners, mission accomplished.

It creates a privileged class exempt from the very rules it imposes. The bill carves out sweeping exemptions for active law enforcement, retired officers, parole/probation officers, and "qualified retired law-enforcement officers" under federal law — allowing them to bypass permit requirements and possess large-capacity magazines without restriction. This is textbook hypocrisy: politicians and their enforcers get special privileges while ordinary citizens are disarmed. Why do retired cops need 30-round magazines for "protection," but a single mother in rural Oregon doesn't? This reeks of elitism and erodes public trust.

Subjective denials and privacy invasions run rampant. The bill allows denials based on vague "reasonable grounds" that someone is a danger — without due process or adjudication. It hides permit data from public records requests while forcing demographic tracking for DEI-style analysis. This turns a background check into a surveillance tool, ripe for abuse.

It overrides voters and ignores court rulings. Measure 114 remains mired in litigation

because its core provisions violate Oregon's constitution and the U.S. Second Amendment. Instead of respecting ongoing challenges, the legislature is trying to legislatively ram through a worse version. This isn't democracy — it's legislative arrogance overriding both voters and the judiciary.

HB 4145 does zero to stop criminals — who ignore laws anyway — while burdening honest gun owners with costs, delays, and discrimination. It won't reduce violence; it will only empower bureaucrats and create black markets.

I urge you to KILL HB 4145 in committee. Do not advance this assault on liberty. Oregonians deserve representatives who defend rights, not erode them under the guise of "safety."

If this bill moves forward, I — and countless others — will remember who stood with the Constitution and who stood against it.