

Submitter: Trent Morrison
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

February 2, 2026

Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing as a resident of Sandy, Oregon, to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4145, which seeks to amend provisions related to firearm permits and transfers under Oregon Revised Statutes. While I respect the legislative process and the intent to address public safety, this measure imposes undue financial burdens on law-abiding citizens and raises significant concerns regarding the security of personal data collected by government entities. These issues disproportionately affect low-wage earners, potentially restricting their constitutional right to bear arms for self-protection.

The bill's proposed fee increases represent an excessive financial burden that could render firearm ownership inaccessible to many Oregonians, particularly those with limited incomes. The maximum initial permit application fee would rise from \$65 to \$150, with renewal fees increasing from \$50 to \$110. Additionally, applicants must complete approved firearms training, which incurs further costs; for instance, online courses meeting Oregon's requirements typically range from \$30 to \$60, while in-person options can exceed \$150. Combined with the permit fee and potential background check expenses, the total outlay for an initial permit could approach or surpass \$200 to \$300. This escalation in costs discriminates against low-income individuals by adding substantial expenses to the purchase of even an affordable firearm, effectively pricing out those who may need it most for personal safety. In a state where the median household income is approximately \$83,011 and the poverty threshold for a three-person household stands at about \$25,000, such fees exacerbate economic disparities and hinder access for low-wage earners, who often reside in communities where self-defense options are critical.

Furthermore, the bill mandates the collection of sensitive personal information, including fingerprints, photographs, and background checks that may reference mental health or behavioral history, all of which would be stored by government agencies. Oregon's track record of data breaches underscores the risks associated with this requirement. Notable incidents include the 2023 MOVEit hack affecting the Oregon Department of Transportation, which exposed driver's license and ID data for approximately 3.5 million residents—over 80% of the state's population. More recently, a 2025 cyberattack on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

compromised personal information for about 4,800 individuals, with the agency delaying public disclosure for months. Additional breaches, such as those involving the Oregon Employment Department and health plan contractors, have exposed protected health information and personally identifiable data for millions. These repeated failures demonstrate a systemic vulnerability in state data management, potentially leading to identity theft, privacy violations, or misuse of firearm-related records. For low-wage earners, who may already face heightened risks, such exposure could compound vulnerabilities without commensurate benefits.

Moreover, this measure fails to address the primary causes of gun-related fatalities in the United States. A majority of gun deaths are suicides, often linked to underlying mental health issues. Recent data indicates that approximately 58 percent of all gun deaths are suicides, highlighting mental health as a significant factor in these tragedies. By emphasizing restrictive permitting processes, increased fees, and data collection rather than investing in accessible mental health resources and support systems, the bill overlooks the root causes of most gun deaths.