

Testimony Against Oregon HB 4145 February 2, 2026

1. Establishes a De Facto Firearm Registry of Law-Abiding Citizens

HB 4145 mandates that the Oregon State Police create and maintain an electronic, searchable database containing all issued permits, renewals, and revocations. Despite claims of confidentiality, this creates a centralized government record of every lawful gun owner, opening the door to potential misuse, data breaches, or future confiscation efforts—issues that have united gun rights advocates and privacy defenders in opposition for decades.

2. Introduces Vague, Subjective Criteria for Denying Permits

The bill empowers permit agents to reject applications based on a mere belief that an individual “may be reasonably likely to be a danger” due to perceived mental, psychological, or behavioral issues—without any requirement for a criminal conviction, adjudication, or objective evidence. This overly broad, opinion-driven standard paves the way for biased, inconsistent, and arbitrary denials, undermining due process and treating innocent applicants as guilty until proven otherwise.

3. Penalizes Citizens for Government’s Own Inefficiencies

If background checks stall due to incomplete or missing state records—problems entirely outside the applicant’s control—the bill automatically disqualifies them from obtaining a permit. This unjustly shifts the full burden onto everyday Oregonians to resolve bureaucratic failures, turning government incompetence into a barrier against exercising fundamental rights.

4. Doubles Delays on Exercising a Constitutional Right

By extending the decision timeline from 30 to 60 days for issuing or denying permits, HB 4145 imposes unnecessary waits that infringe on Second Amendment protections. Such delays are especially harmful for those in urgent need of self-defense tools, transforming a core right into a privilege subject to prolonged government red tape.

5. Imposes Prohibitive Fees That Burden Lower-Income Oregonians

With initial permit fees soaring to \$150 and renewals at \$110, the bill erects a steep financial wall around a constitutional right, effectively pricing out working-class families and low-income individuals. Rights enshrined in the Constitution should never be contingent on wealth, yet this paywall does exactly that, discriminating against those least able to afford it.

6. Creates Unequal Treatment Favoring Law Enforcement

HB 4145 grants sweeping exemptions to active and retired police officers, sparing them the burdensome requirements foisted on ordinary citizens. This double standard violates equal protection principles, implying that rights depend on one’s ties to government service rather than being universal for all law-abiding Americans.

7. Deters Applications Through Intimidating Reporting Requirements

Denied applicants are flagged and reported to multiple law enforcement agencies within 24 hours, even absent any criminal activity. This aggressive notification process fosters a chilling effect, discouraging qualified individuals from applying out of fear of unwarranted scrutiny and treating potential rights-holders as presumptive threats.

8. Limits Access to Justice by Centralizing Legal Challenges

The bill funnels all challenges to its provisions exclusively into Marion County Circuit Court, restricting judicial access for residents in rural or distant areas. This venue-shopping tactic tilts the scales in the state’s favor, making it harder and costlier for affected citizens to seek redress and defend their rights.

9. Ignores Criminals While Burdening the Law-Abiding

HB 4145 piles on fees, delays, and hurdles for responsible gun owners but provides zero effective measures to target criminals who flout existing laws. This misdirected approach diverts resources from real threats, proving ineffective at reducing crime while eroding freedoms for those who follow the rules.

10. Prematurely Entrenches a Controversial Law Amid Ongoing Litigation

Building on Ballot Measure 114—whose key elements remain mired in constitutional challenges—HB 4145 rushes to “fix” and solidify disputed provisions without awaiting court resolutions. This reckless strategy invites

more legal turmoil, wasted taxpayer dollars, and instability in Oregon's firearm laws.

Repectfully
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