

Submitter: Seth Kezar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I write from the perspective of both a law-enforcement officer and a certified firearms instructor who works directly with responsible, law-abiding citizens across Oregon. In both capacities, my primary concern is public safety grounded in real-world experience, not theory.

House Bill 4145 places additional restrictions on lawful firearm ownership that, in my professional judgment, do not meaningfully address violent crime. The individuals committing firearm related crimes are overwhelmingly those who already disregard existing laws. Additional restrictions imposed on compliant citizens do not deter criminal behavior, but they do place unnecessary burdens on those who follow the law.

As a firearms instructor, I see firsthand the importance of training, education, and accountability. Responsible gun owners seek instruction, understand the law, and take personal responsibility for safe handling and lawful use. HB 4145 risks discouraging lawful ownership and training while offering no measurable benefit in reducing criminal misuse of firearms.

From a law-enforcement standpoint, I am concerned that this bill creates enforcement challenges, increases legal ambiguity, and diverts resources away from strategies that actually improve public safety such as targeting violent offenders, repeat criminals, and illegal firearm trafficking. Laws that are difficult to enforce or lack practical impact ultimately undermine respect for the legal system.

Public safety is best served by evidence-based policy, not by measures that provide the appearance of action without addressing root causes of violence. Oregon already has extensive firearms regulations on the books. Before adding new restrictions, lawmakers should evaluate whether existing laws are being effectively enforced and whether proposed legislation demonstrably reduces crime.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4145. I encourage a continued focus on policies that support law enforcement, promote responsible firearms education, and directly address violent criminal behavior rather than penalizing lawful citizens.