

Submitter: Kipp Karavanich
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to House Bill 4145. This legislation does not "fix" the inherent constitutional flaws of Ballot Measure 114; instead, it doubles down on policies that transform a fundamental, enumerated right into a high-priced, government-controlled privilege.

HB 4145 represents a systematic dismantling of the Second Amendment in Oregon through the following mechanisms:

I. Erosion of Privacy and Due Process

A De Facto Firearm Registry: By requiring the Oregon State Police to maintain a searchable electronic database of all permit holders, HB 4145 creates a functional registry of lawful gun owners. History and recent data breaches in other states prove that "confidential" government lists are never truly secure and serve as a roadmap for future confiscation or harassment.

Vague and Subjective Denial Standards: The bill grants permit agents the power to deny applicants based on a mere "belief" that an individual "may be" a danger. This replaces objective legal standards and due process with arbitrary, "red flag" style intuition, inviting personal bias and inconsistent enforcement across different jurisdictions.

Reporting Rights-Holders as Suspects: The requirement to report denied applicants to multiple law enforcement agencies within 24 hours—even when no crime has been committed—treats the exercise of a constitutional right as a suspicious activity, creating a "chilling effect" on law-abiding citizens.

II. Bureaucratic and Financial Barriers

Doubling Wait Times: HB 4145 extends the permit decision window from 30 to 60 days. A right delayed is a right denied. For individuals facing immediate threats of domestic violence or stalking, a two-month government waiting period can be a death sentence.

Financial Disenfranchisement: With fees skyrocketing to \$150 for initials and \$110 for renewals, this bill creates a "pay-to-play" system. These costs, combined with mandatory training expenses, effectively price lower-income Oregonians and marginalized communities out of their right to self-defense.

Punishing Applicants for State Failures: Under this bill, if the state's own databases

are incomplete, the applicant is automatically disqualified. Shifting the burden onto the citizen to correct government record-keeping errors is a gross reversal of legal responsibility.

III. Legal Stacking and Inequality

Unequal Treatment: HB 4145 carves out broad exemptions for active and retired law enforcement regarding permit requirements and magazine limits. If a firearm or magazine is "safe" for a retired officer to own for personal protection, it is safe for a private citizen. Rights should not depend on one's status as a former government employee.

Centralized Judicial Gatekeeping: By mandating that all challenges be filed exclusively in Marion County Circuit Court, the bill intentionally creates a "home-court advantage" for the state, making it prohibitively difficult for rural Oregonians to seek justice against unconstitutional overreach.

IV. Failure to Address Crime

HB 4145 is a strategic maneuver to entrench Measure 114 while it is still being litigated in the courts. This bill focuses entirely on the paperwork, wallets, and privacy of law-abiding citizens while providing zero new tools to combat the criminal misuse of firearms.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on HB 4145. Oregon should focus on mental health resources and the prosecution of violent criminals rather than the systematic disarmament and registration of its peaceful residents.