

Submitter: Travis Woods  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 4145.

I respectfully oppose HB 4145 because it would erect unconstitutional, unnecessary, and inequitable barriers to the lawful rights of responsible, law-abiding Oregonians to possess firearms and carry concealed for self-defense—a core right protected under both the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions.

1. This bill burdens a fundamental right without sufficient justification. The right to keep and bear arms is not merely a privilege but a protected constitutional liberty under the state and federal constitutions. Creating permit fees more than double the original cap and extending review times to 60 days imposes undue burdens on law-abiding citizens who seek to exercise this right responsibly. Systems that delay, complicate, or financially burden fundamental rights must be scrutinized under strict constitutional standards.
2. The exemptions for law enforcement create inequality. HB 4145 would give active duty and retired officers exemptions from key provisions of Measure 114 while ordinary citizens remain subject to increased fees, delays, and restrictions. This creates a class-based system where rights are unevenly distributed based on occupation rather than law-abiding conduct. Such unequal treatment of citizens' rights is inconsistent with Oregon's constitutional guarantees of equal privileges and immunities.
3. Arbitrary delays and increased fees undermine public safety for law-abiding people. Requiring up to 60 days to process lawful purchase permits means that individuals who wish to defend themselves, their families, or their communities—especially in high-crime areas—could be left defenseless for extended periods. The fundamental right to self-defense should not be subject to bureaucratic delay.
4. These provisions do not demonstrably improve public safety. There is no clear evidence that increasing fees or delaying permit processing appreciably deters criminals from obtaining firearms illegally. Instead, these measures primarily impact law-abiding citizens, while criminals operating outside the law are already indifferent to regulatory hurdles. Policies that burden rights without clear public safety benefits are misguided and counterproductive.

5. The bill's modifications effectively rewrite voter-approved Measure 114 without voter consent. Measure 114 was narrowly passed by Oregon voters and has since been subject to legal challenge and judicial review. Rather than awaiting final judicial determination, HB 4145 seeks to embed expanded restrictions into statute and delay key effective dates. Lawful changes to voters' rights should come through the ballot box or clear legislative evidence of necessity, not procedural circumvention.

In conclusion HB 4145, as currently drafted, fails to respect fundamental constitutional rights, imposes inequitable burdens on law-abiding citizens, and does not meaningfully address violent crime or public safety. For these reasons, I urge the Committee to vote "no" on advancing this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.