

Submitter: Jim James
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I am writing as an Oregon resident to strongly oppose House Bill 4145 due to its direct and expanded restrictions on constitutionally protected rights.

HB 4145 further entrenches and worsens the problems created by Measure 114 by conditioning the exercise of a fundamental constitutional right on government permission, delays, fees, and discretionary approval. The right to keep and bear arms, protected by both the Oregon Constitution and the U.S. Constitution, should not be treated as a privilege available only after navigating an expensive and time-consuming bureaucratic process.

By extending permit timelines, increasing costs, and failing to guarantee timely access, HB 4145 effectively denies the right to acquire a firearm to many law-abiding citizens — not through due process, but through delay and administrative burden. A constitutional right delayed is a constitutional right denied.

I am particularly concerned that HB 4145 applies these restrictions unevenly, creating exemptions for certain groups while maintaining strict limitations on ordinary citizens. Fundamental rights must be applied equally. The creation of two classes of citizens — those who can exercise their rights freely and those who cannot — undermines both constitutional principles and public trust.

Public safety can and should be pursued without eroding civil liberties. Policies that burden responsible citizens while failing to address violent criminals do not make Oregon safer; they only weaken constitutional protections and set a troubling precedent for future restrictions on individual rights.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 4145 and reject legislation that expands government control over the exercise of constitutional rights. Oregon can address violence without sacrificing the freedoms guaranteed to its people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jim James