

Submitter: Eric Christensen
On Behalf Of: Opposition Measure 114
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145
Opposition to Measure 114

Measure 114 is a deeply flawed proposal that undermines constitutional rights while failing to address the root causes of violent crime. Though framed as a public safety measure, it places heavy burdens on law-abiding citizens and grants excessive discretion to government agencies—without evidence it will make Oregonians safer.

First, Measure 114 creates a permit-to-purchase system that treats a constitutional right as a privilege. Requiring citizens to obtain government permission, pay fees, submit fingerprints, complete training, and wait for approval before exercising a fundamental right sets a dangerous precedent. Rights do not depend on bureaucratic approval, especially when delays or denials can occur without clear standards or accountability.

Second, the measure gives local law enforcement unchecked authority to approve or deny permits. The criteria are vague, subjective, and open to inconsistent or discriminatory enforcement across jurisdictions. In rural areas with limited resources—or in communities where law enforcement leadership is hostile to firearm ownership—this system could effectively function as a ban.

Third, Measure 114 does nothing to stop criminals. Individuals who commit violent crimes already ignore firearm laws. Criminals obtain weapons through theft and black markets, not legal purchase channels. This measure targets responsible gun owners while leaving violent offenders untouched.

Fourth, the magazine capacity restriction criminalizes ordinary, commonly owned equipment used by millions of Americans for lawful purposes, including self-defense. There is no credible evidence that magazine limits reduce crime, but there is clear evidence they impair the ability of citizens—especially women, seniors, and disabled individuals—to defend themselves.

Finally, Measure 114 risks overwhelming courts and law enforcement with lawsuits, administrative backlogs, and enforcement challenges, diverting resources away from proven crime-reduction strategies such as mental health services, targeted policing of violent offenders, and community-based intervention programs.

Oregonians deserve policies grounded in evidence, fairness, and respect for civil liberties. Measure 114 fails on all three counts. It erodes constitutional rights, creates

inequitable enforcement, and offers false promises of safety—while ignoring real solutions that address crime at its source.

For these reasons, Measure 114 should be opposed.