

Submitter: Ritchmond Betiong
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

For the record, my name is Ritchmond Betiong. I am a first-generation American of Filipino heritage, a husband, a parent, and I come from a family full of military veterans. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 4145.

My family's service in the military taught me that rights and freedoms are precious, and that they belong to all citizens equally—not just to a select class. As a parent, I want my children to grow up in a state that is both safe and fair, where laws are written to protect families, not to punish ordinary, law-abiding citizens who are trying to exercise their constitutional rights responsibly.

HB 4145 does not live up to those values. It creates special privileges and exemptions for certain groups, while imposing higher costs, longer delays, and more subjective barriers on everyone else. That sends a troubling message to families like mine: that our rights matter less because we are not part of a favored class, and that exercising those rights will be made as expensive and difficult as possible.

Coming from an immigrant family, I know what it means to work hard, follow the rules, and trust that the law applies equally to everyone. When legislation carves out broad exceptions for some, raises financial barriers for others, and concentrates power in the hands of a few officials, it erodes that trust. It also risks discriminating—intentionally or not—against communities of color, immigrants, and working-class families who may not have the time, money, or connections to navigate an increasingly complicated system.

I want real solutions that focus on violent criminals and people who actually pose a danger, not bills that burden parents, veterans, and responsible citizens while doing little to improve safety.

HB 4145 moves us in the wrong direction by making it harder for regular Oregonians to exercise a fundamental right, while expanding privileges and limiting avenues for accountability.

On behalf of my children, my extended family of veterans, and other first-generation families who came to this country believing in equal rights and the rule of law, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 4145.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ritchmond Betiong
Hillsboro, Oregon