

Submitter:

Amie Wexler

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Amie Wexler and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance for a Safe Oregon. We are a statewide advocacy group working in two main areas: firearm suicide prevention and reducing gun violence in the City of Portland. This bill and the law known as measure 114 would help in reducing gun tragedies in both of those areas. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 4145.

In Oregon, suicide accounts for the majority of gun deaths. Suicide is one of Oregon's most urgent and persistent public health crises. It touches every corner of our state, but it is especially devastating in rural communities and among veterans, where isolation, barriers to care, and access to lethal means intersect. Decades of public health research show that suicide is not inevitable—it is preventable, particularly when we focus on practical, evidence-based strategies that reduce risk during periods of acute crisis. One of the most effective of those strategies is creating time and space between a person in distress and a highly lethal method.

Approaching suicide prevention through a public health lens means meeting people where they are, using data and compassion to guide policy, and investing in solutions that save lives without stigma or blame.

We partner with veterans' service organizations, rural health providers, firearm retailers, and law enforcement to promote secure storage. These conversations are not about politics—they're about protecting people during the hardest moments of their lives. Time and again, we hear from veterans and family members that a brief pause, a small safeguard, can mean the difference between life and death.

That's why getting Measure 114 implemented correctly matters. HB 4145 reflects the will of the voters. It makes technical, practical fixes so the law can function as intended—clearly, fairly, and safely.

The bill gives law enforcement the time and guidance they need to do this work responsibly. HB 4145 helps ensure that Oregon's approach is thoughtful, constitutional, and grounded in real-world conditions, while keeping suicide prevention at the center.

On behalf of the families, veterans, and the communities we serve, I urge you to support HB 4145.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.