

Submitter: Dale Rasmussen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

HB4145 purports to promote the safety and security of Oregonians. In reality it merely builds upon the apparently never-ending attack on the fundamental right under both the US and Oregon constitutions of individuals to keep and bear arms, imposing yet more burdens on law-abiding citizens, while not deterring criminals or addressing the root causes of violence.

The entire concept of requiring a permit from the State to exercise a fundamental right is antithetical to the express provisions of the Bills of Rights in the Oregon and US Constitutions. This bill, like others before it, mutates this key right to a privilege, and exacerbates this by imposing fees and eliminating recourse for wrongful acts by the gatekeepers who would have control over granting this "privilege" that render the chances of anyone in the State, and particularly those whose financial means are limited, being able to obtain the necessary tools for protecting themselves and their loved ones remote at best.

This bill is not one that justifies "emergency" passage or effect. It will not prevent violence. It will not deter criminals. It will merely further erode citizens' rights. And limiting venue to Marion County courts is an affront to all living outside the Willamette "bubble." Resolution of disagreements between courts is the very purpose of having an appellate court structure.

Given the financial, educational, reputational, and infrastructure challenges faced by the State, this is absolutely not what our legislature should focus on.