

Submitter: Diane Peterson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and members of the judiciary committee, I'm here with the Alliance for a Safe Oregon, in support of HB 4145. We need to implement Measure 114, and this bill will allow that to happen. As a long time advocate on this issue, I've met many survivors whose lives have been forever changed by a tragedy with a firearm. Many of these tragedies could have been prevented by Measure 114, including that of my friend McKay Sohlberg. She couldn't be here today, so I'm sharing her story with her permission. McKay's husband Olaf, and beloved father to their two daughters, took his life with a firearm he had purchased that day only hours before. Olaf was a successful surgeon and active member of his community. He had it all - a beautiful family and a wonderful life. In a moment of crisis, an impulsive act was made fatal because of the ease of access to firearms in Oregon, impacting the Sohlberg family irreparably. Tragically, this is an experience that too many Oregonian families share. Suicide is a problem in Oregon. It makes up the majority of firearm deaths in our state, and the majority of suicides happen with a firearm. The permit to purchase will put time and distance between buying a gun and following through with taking one's life. With HB 4145, Oregon has a chance to prevent impulsive acts from becoming permanent tragedies. I urge you to pass this bill.