

HB4145 Measure 114 'Fix' OPPOSITION

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ed Diehl. I represent House District 17, from East Salem through the Majestic Santiam Canyon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 4145.

I want to be very clear: this bill is not about public safety. It is about making a constitutional right harder, slower, and more expensive to exercise—until regular Oregonians give up.

First, HB 4145 creates a de facto firearm registry.

It doesn't use that label, but function matters more than words. When the state conditions lawful ownership on permits, approvals, and retained records, it builds a system that tracks who may own firearms and when. Federal law was written specifically to prevent that. Oregon should not do indirectly what Congress has clearly prohibited.

Second, this bill gives the government too much discretion.

Under HB 4145, permits may be denied based on subjective judgment—without a conviction, clear standards, or meaningful accountability. That is not how constitutional rights work. Rights do not depend on whether a bureaucrat finds you “acceptable.”

Third, Oregonians are punished for government failure.

If records are delayed, missing, or wrong, the applicant pays the price—not the state.

That flips due process on its head.

Fourth, the delays are excessive and unjustified.

We've gone from days, to 30 days under Measure 114, and now to 60 days. That's not a background check—it's a government-imposed delay on people already legally eligible to purchase a firearm. There is no historical basis for routine, discretionary delays of this length.

Fifth, this bill prices working Oregonians out of their rights.

Higher fees, repeated training, and renewal costs fall hardest on rural families, seniors, and people living paycheck to paycheck. Rights are not reserved for those who can afford them.

Finally, HB 4145 creates two classes of citizens.

Government employees and retired law enforcement receive broader firearm privileges than the people they serve. The Second Amendment protects people, not job titles.

HB 4145 repeats the mistakes of Measure 114, adds new ones, and ignores real consequences—closed gun shops, lost Oregon jobs, and law-abiding citizens treated like suspects.

I also want to raise a serious concern about process. This is a large and complex bill with significant legal and constitutional implications, yet it was scheduled with little notice, and public testimony did not open until late this morning. And if this bill is truly an “emergency,” why does the core of it not take effect until 2028? The practical effect of the emergency clause is to deny Oregonians the opportunity to refer this bill to the ballot.

Oregonians deserve adequate notice, meaningful engagement, and a transparent process—especially when legislation is this sweeping.

For those reasons, I strongly urge you to vote no on HB 4145.

Thank you.