

Submitter:

Steven Shapiro

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

Our United States Constitution begins with the words, "We the People" indicating that the government therein enacted was to be one that represented the best interests of the people and not the elected government officials or a monarch or an emperor or a dictator or an oligarchy. Even though it clearly delineated the powers and limitations of the three branches of the federal government and also the powers and limitations of the federal government as a whole, the people were still not satisfied that there was enough to protect them from the type of government shackles that they had experienced prior to declaring independence from the monarchy in England. Thus to allay their fears the Bill of Rights was added to the document. Though the right to keep and bear arms was among those that were recognized by the founders as an "inalienable" right to the degree that some felt it unnecessary to delineate that right in the nation's founding document, I am thankful that some had the foresight to include it. The reason is that it was recognized that the greatest protection that the people had for themselves if the government overstepped its legally defined bounds and attempted to take away their freedoms to increase its power, was the constitutional right to bear their own arms. They were aware that not only were there threats from foreign invaders, but it was possible that corruption in government could threaten them from within. We the People of Oregon continue to insist that the Second Amendment of the Constitution be upheld because it was agreed upon when Oregon applied for Statehood. This right was also recognized in the Constitution of the State of Oregon in Article 1 Section 27 where it says "'The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power[.]'" By adding more layers of government bureaucracy and permissions to be able to purchase firearms than already exist (none of which can demonstrably be proven to improve public safety) you are not acting in the best interest of We the People, you are infringing on our Constitutionally guaranteed rights (both Federal and State) and we have to be concerned that you are taking steps toward becoming the type of government that the founding generation feared. The same goes for other provisions regarding magazine capacities and everything else in this bill as well as Ballot Measure 114. I am therefore urging a No vote on this legislation and any other legislation that further restricts We the People of the State of Oregon from retaining the full measure of the rights guaranteed to us by our constitutions.