

Submitter: Tracy Alifanz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

As a resident of a rural enclave outside Portland, I care deeply about both public safety and responsible firearm ownership. I recognize that most gun owners are law-abiding people who want their communities to be safe, including their own families. At the same time, every year in Oregon and across the nation we lose far too many lives to gun suicide and gun violence.

Research shows that laws requiring a permit to purchase a firearm, especially those that combine that permit with a background check and safety training, are linked with lower rates of firearm deaths. For example, states that require a permit for all gun purchases have significantly lower firearm homicide rates than those with background checks alone: permit systems can save lives without impeding lawful ownership.

Additionally, when background checks are completed before a sale, including closing the so-called “Charleston loophole” that allows a transfer to proceed if a check isn’t finished in three days, it reduces the chance that a firearm will end up in the hands of someone unsafe. That’s a common-sense step that Oregon voters approved four years ago in Measure 114.

I’m also concerned about suicide prevention. We know that many suicides are impulsive, and that placing even a short barrier of time between an individual in crisis and access to a means of suicide can save lives. States with comprehensive background check and waiting-period laws have been associated with lower firearm suicide rates compared to states without such measures.

Finally, banning large-capacity magazines — those able to hold more than 10 rounds — is a practical step to reduce the lethality of violent incidents. Research from public health experts has found that laws banning large-capacity magazines are associated with fewer and less deadly mass shootings.

My support for sensible gun safety measures, including permits, completed background checks, and limits on high-capacity magazines, is grounded in a desire to protect life and promote community well-being while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

Please take every available step to both honor the votes of Oregonians who passed this bill initially, and to keep our community safe.