

Submitter: Rob Melquist  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145  
Statement Opposing Oregon HB 4145

To the Members of the Oregon Legislature and Interested Parties:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4145. While the bill is marketed as an update to firearm policy, in practice it expands discretionary authority and creates unequal treatment under the law rather than meaningfully improving public safety. ?

First, HB 4145 makes significant changes to the firearm permit and transfer process — including doubling the maximum time for issuing a permit from 30 to 60 days and substantially increasing application fees — which risks turning lawful exercise of constitutional rights into a burdensome, time-consuming, and costly process for ordinary Oregonians. ?

Second, the bill includes broad exemptions for active and retired law enforcement officers while maintaining restrictions on civilians. This creates a two-tiered system of rights in which some individuals are subject to more stringent controls than others — a disparity that undermines equal protection principles and fuels distrust in the fairness of public policy. ?

Finally, by postponing key provisions and embedding an emergency clause, HB 4145 limits the ability of Oregon voters and citizens to respond through referendum or future ballot measures, effectively circumventing the democratic process. ?

For these reasons, I respectfully urge members of the legislature to oppose HB 4145 as currently drafted and instead pursue policies that uphold constitutional rights, protect public safety without creating unequal standards, and respect the will of Oregon voters.

Sincerely,  
Rob Melquist  
Milwaukie, OR