

Submitter: Catherine Ryan Gregory

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I am writing in strong favor of HB 4145 and urge the committee to pass the bill. As you know, Oregon voters already approved Measure 114. Passing fixes to the Measure will enact the will of Oregon voters.

My family has been personally impacted by gun violence. My cousin was killed in an unintentional shooting when he and a friend found an unsecured firearm and it discharged. He was 8 years old. In addition, my nephew is a survivor of the Oxford school shooting in Michigan. The perpetrator killed someone in front of my nephew, who barely escaped as the shooter fired at him. He continues to live with the unspeakable trauma of that day.

We in Oregon are not powerless against gun violence. Data consistently shows that smart, commonsense gun laws decrease shootings, suicide by gun and overall violence. In our state, every 18 hours, someone dies by gun suicide. And Oregon has the 28th highest rate of gun deaths in the country. We must do better.

Requiring a permit to purchase a firearm -- part of Measure 114 and included in HB 4145 -- is statistically shown to reduce both homicide and suicide rates. The bill would also ban high capacity magazines, which increase the possible scale of violence of a shooter. Finally, it would close the "Charleston loophole," which can enable prohibited people to buy a firearm because of a technicality. We need each of these features to become enacted and enforceable.

Technical fixes through HB 4145 will allow Oregon voters' will to be enacted in our state and save lives. Please act on behalf of the safety of our communities and swiftly pass HB 4145.