

Submitter: ERIN DRAPER
On Behalf Of: HB4145
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Hello,

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.

I grew up in the era of what was then called the first modern school shooting, Thurston High School. I was a student at a neighboring middle school, close enough that the shockwaves reached us immediately. Friends of mine lost loved ones that day, and none of us were untouched. Childhood ended early. Since then, I have participated in more active shooter drills than my nervous system can reasonably track, each one reinforcing a low grade vigilance that never quite turns off. Now my children are doing the same, inheriting a fear that should never be part of growing up.

Gun violence is not an abstract issue in my life. I have family members and close friends who have been personally and profoundly impacted. A close friend's cousin was killed in an unintentional shooting when he and another child found an unsecured firearm. He was eight years old. Another friend's nephew survived the Oxford High School shooting in Michigan. The perpetrator murdered someone directly in front of him. As he fled, the shooter fired at him, shots he narrowly escaped. He is alive, but he continues to carry the unspeakable trauma of that day, a burden no child should have to bear.

These are not isolated tragedies. They are part of a long, devastating pattern that has stretched across decades and generations. We have normalized the unthinkable and mistaken inevitability for inevitability. We can and we should do better than this. Our children deserve schools that are places of learning, not survival training. Our communities deserve policies and cultural shifts that value life, safety, and responsibility over indifference. Doing nothing is a choice, and it is one we can no longer afford.

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.