

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4145
Oregon State Legislature

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joel and I am an Oregon resident. I am writing to oppose HB 4145.

I care about public safety, but I do not believe this bill is the right way to achieve it. HB 4145 places new limits and costs on people who already follow the law, while doing little to stop people who commit crimes.

One of my main concerns is due process. This bill allows the government to restrict someone's gun rights based on broad rules and paperwork, rather than a criminal conviction. A person should not lose a constitutional right without fair process and clear proof. Rights should not be taken away first and sorted out later.

HB 4145 mostly affects law-abiding citizens. Criminals are not going to apply for permits, pay fees, or wait longer for approval. These added steps only make it harder for responsible people to legally own a firearm.

The bill also creates unfair exceptions for current and retired law enforcement. If these rules are truly about public safety, they should apply to everyone equally. Rights should not depend on your job or former job.

The increased costs and longer wait times are another problem. Higher fees and delays hit low-income and rural Oregonians the hardest. For some people, owning a firearm is about personal safety, and long delays or high costs can leave them without protection.

I am also concerned that the rules in this bill are too vague. When laws are unclear, they can be applied differently depending on who is enforcing them. This leads to unfair outcomes and less trust in the system.

Many people believe HB 4145 goes beyond what voters approved under Measure 114. Regardless of how someone voted, lawmakers should respect the will of the voters instead of expanding it through additional legislation.

Finally, there is little evidence that these changes will actually reduce violent crime. If the state is going to limit a constitutional right, there should be clear proof that it will make people safer. Without that proof, this bill risks being ineffective and costly to defend in court.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 4145.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Joel Emerson
Coos County Oregon