

Submitter: John Hafner
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Dear members of the judiciary committee,

I am writing as someone who supports smart gun control and as an Oregon voter to express my opposition to House Bill 4145.

I support reasonable, evidence-based gun safety laws. However, HB 4145, as written, raises serious constitutional concerns and does not meaningfully address the root causes of gun violence or improve public safety.

First, several provisions of HB 4145 appear to conflict with both the Second Amendment and recent Supreme Court guidance requiring that firearm regulations be consistent with the nation's historical tradition of regulation. Laws that are overly broad, vague, or that impose excessive burdens on lawful conduct are likely to be challenged—and overturned. Passing legislation that is constitutionally vulnerable is not responsible governance. It wastes public resources, creates legal uncertainty, and ultimately delays the implementation of policies that could survive judicial review and actually make a difference.

Second, HB 4145 once again focuses its impact on law-abiding citizens rather than on violent offenders and career criminals. This approach has repeatedly proven ineffective. Individuals who commit acts of violence do not comply with firearm regulations, permitting schemes, or additional prohibitions layered onto existing law. Each new restriction primarily affects responsible citizens who already follow the law, while those who pose the greatest threat to public safety remain largely unaffected. Public safety is not improved by targeting compliance. It is improved by prioritizing enforcement against violent offenders, intervening when credible threats are identified, and addressing the failures that allow known criminals to continue harming others. Legislation that avoids these difficult but necessary steps in favor of broad restrictions on lawful conduct does not make communities safer—it simply creates the appearance of action.

Finally, I am deeply frustrated with the pattern this bill represents. Oregon voters are repeatedly asked to elect the same way, support the same types of legislation, and trust the same officials—yet we continue to get the same results. Laws that are unconstitutional, easily overturned, or disconnected from how violence actually occurs do not move us forward. They erode public trust and make meaningful reform harder, not easier.

As someone who genuinely wants safer communities and effective gun policy, I urge

you to reject HB 4145 and instead pursue legislation that:

- 1) Is clearly constitutional and legally durable
- 2) Focuses on violent offenders and repeat criminals
- 3) Prioritizes enforcement, prevention, and early intervention
- 4) Respects civil liberties while addressing real public safety concerns

We can do better than continuing to regulate those who already follow the law while ignoring the failures that allow violent crime to persist. Oregon deserves thoughtful, effective policy—not more of the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Hafner
Stayton, Oregon