

Submitter: Joseph Cusic

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Dear Chair Kropf and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned Oregon resident and law-abiding citizen to strongly oppose House Bill 4145. This legislation represents an unnecessary and unconstitutional expansion of government restrictions on the Second Amendment rights of ordinary Oregonians, while failing to meaningfully improve public safety. HB 4145 resurrects and worsens key elements of Ballot Measure 114, which remains under legal challenge and has not been fully implemented due to constitutional concerns. Among the most problematic provisions:

It more than doubles the fee for a firearm purchase permit from \$65 to \$150, creating a financial barrier that disproportionately affects working families, low-income individuals, and those in rural areas who rely on firearms for self-defense, hunting, or recreation.

It extends the timeline for issuing permits from 30 days to 60 days, introducing unnecessary delays that could leave responsible citizens unable to exercise their rights in a timely manner—especially in situations involving personal safety.

It grants broad discretionary authority to permit agents (local law enforcement), allowing denials based on subjective judgments rather than clear, objective criteria. This risks arbitrary or biased decision-making without adequate due process or meaningful appeal rights.

It creates a two-tiered system of rights by exempting active law enforcement officers, retired officers, parole/probation officers, and others from permit requirements and certain restrictions (such as large-capacity magazine limits). Law-abiding private citizens should not be treated as second-class when it comes to constitutional protections—rights belong to the people, not just to government employees.

It establishes a de facto registry of firearm owners through the permit database, with information exempt from public disclosure but still maintained by the state—raising serious privacy and potential misuse concerns.

The bill does nothing to address actual criminal misuse of firearms; it only burdens law-abiding citizens who already pass federal background checks.

Oregon's Constitution (Article I, Section 27) and the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment protect the right to keep and bear arms. Post-Bruen (2022), restrictions must be consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation—requirements like these expansive permit systems, high fees, long delays, and selective exemptions lack such grounding and appear designed to discourage lawful ownership rather than enhance safety.

The rushed introduction of this bill on the first day of the 2026 session, combined with

its declaration of emergency, limits thorough public review and debate on a measure that significantly impacts fundamental rights.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject HB 4145 in its entirety. Oregonians deserve legislation that respects constitutional rights, treats all citizens equally, and focuses enforcement efforts on criminals—not on law-abiding residents exercising their freedoms.