

Submitter: Clifford Richardson
On Behalf Of: Law Abiding Citizens
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Cliff Richardson
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House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 4145 (2026 Regular Session)

Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to oppose HB 4145.

At its core, this bill doubles down on a system that functions like registration of lawful gun owners through a permit-holder database, fingerprinting, photographing, and record retention. That is an infringement on Second Amendment rights in practice, even if it is packaged as “public safety.” A constitutional right should not require a person to place themselves into a government database to exercise it.

HB 4145 also punishes law-abiding citizens with higher costs and more hoops. If someone is willing to commit a felony, a permit system and fees won’t stop them. But for working people who follow the rules, this becomes a real barrier. And that’s where this bill does the most damage: it hits disadvantaged populations the hardest. When the state builds a “pay-to-comply” system, it doesn’t create safety, it creates a financial gate around a basic right.

It also impacts single women in a very real way. Many women pursue firearm ownership for personal safety, not sport. A delayed, expensive, bureaucratic process can leave them waiting far too long to legally obtain the means to protect themselves. That’s not politics. That’s reality.

Here are my specific concerns:

1) It raises costs on lawful citizens. Increasing permit fees and background-check

cost caps is a direct hit on working people who follow the rules. Rights shouldn't depend on disposable income.

- 2) It creates "denial by paperwork." The bill language that treats missing or incomplete records as a disqualifier is unacceptable. A citizen shouldn't lose access to a constitutional right because government databases are incomplete or slow.
- 3) It reduces transparency. Expanding public-record exemptions around the permit-holder database and application materials moves Oregon further toward a closed system the public can't meaningfully audit. We can protect private data without creating a black box.
- 4) It manipulates the legal playing field. Requiring challenges to be filed in Marion County looks like venue-shopping written into law. Oregonians should be able to challenge state action without being forced into a single county courthouse.
- 5) It muddies enforcement around large-capacity magazines. The "no prosecution while enjoined" language and the added post-injunction grace period for dealers/manufacturers reads like legal damage control, not good policy. Oregon needs laws that are stable, enforceable, and straightforward.

This bill focuses on expanding a restrictive process and building a bigger system around lawful ownership instead of measurable outcomes: targeting violent offenders, illegal gun trafficking, repeat criminals, and interventions that actually prevent harm.

I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 4145.

Sincerely,

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