

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

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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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