

Submitter: Levi Skillings  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

I am writing to oppose HB 4145.

At its core, this bill reinforces a system that operates as a de facto registration of lawful gun owners through a permit-holder database, fingerprinting, photographing, and long-term record retention. Even when framed as “public safety,” this places a constitutional right behind a government permission structure. A fundamental right should not require individuals to enter a government database in order to exercise it. HB 4145 also imposes additional financial and bureaucratic burdens on law-abiding citizens. Increased permit fees, expanded background-check cost caps, and added procedural hurdles do not deter criminals who are already willing to break the law. Instead, these measures disproportionately affect working people and disadvantaged populations who follow the rules. When compliance becomes costly and complex, the state creates a pay-to-comply system that places a financial gate around a basic right rather than improving safety.

The bill also has real consequences for single women seeking firearms for personal protection. Many women pursue lawful firearm ownership for self-defense, not recreation. A delayed, expensive, and bureaucratic permitting process can leave them without timely access to lawful means of protection. This is not a political talking point, it is a practical reality.

My specific concerns include:

Increased costs on lawful citizens. Raising permit fees and background-check costs directly burdens working people. Constitutional rights should not depend on disposable income.

Denial by paperwork. Allowing missing or incomplete records to result in denial is unacceptable. Citizens should not lose access to a constitutional right due to incomplete, inaccurate, or slow government databases.

Reduced transparency. Expanding public-record exemptions related to permit-holder databases and applications limits meaningful public oversight. Privacy can be protected without creating a closed system the public cannot audit.

Venue manipulation. Requiring legal challenges to be filed exclusively in Marion County appears to be venue-shopping written into statute. Oregonians should be able to challenge state action without being forced into a single courthouse.

Unclear enforcement language. Provisions related to non-prosecution during injunctions and extended post-injunction grace periods for dealers and manufacturers read as legal damage control rather than sound policy. Laws should be clear, stable, and enforceable.

HB 4145 focuses on expanding restrictive processes around lawful ownership instead of prioritizing measurable public-safety outcomes, such as targeting violent offenders, illegal trafficking, repeat criminals, and interventions proven to prevent

harm.

For these reasons,

I respectfully urge you to  
vote NO on HB 4145.