

February 4, 2026

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Michael Smith. By way of identification, I am a former Chair of the DPO Gun Owners Caucus, although I do not speak for them here. As a gun-owning Democrat, I write in opposition to HB 4145 as written, and I urge the Committee to either drop this bill or amend it before advancing to the floor.

I understand the urge to fix Measure 114. Put simply, this is not the way to do it. There are two big problems with this bill that make it less equitable and that will, rather than encouraging gun safety, will instead make the inequity posed by Measure 114 even worse.

The first of these is the increase in permit-to-purchase fees from \$65 (\$50 for renewal) to \$150 (\$110 for renewal). \$65 is already an awful lot of money to spend on a permit application that is may-issue rather than shall-issue and that might not succeed solely because of lags in paperwork. Raising this to \$150 only makes matters worse. The reason we want permits to purchase is to ensure that purchasers are trained and will pass a background check. Making the permit harder to get by increasing the cost only encourages buyers to forego the permitting process and seek firearms through the black market. This is not the outcome we want.

The second of these is the exemption to the magazine restrictions for retired law enforcement officers, including peace, probation and parole officers. The ten round magazine restriction already is baseless, and the peer-reviewed research for its efficacy is weak. Nonetheless, if we are to follow the logic that no civilian needs a magazine that holds more than ten rounds for self-defense, then it should also follow that a *retired* officer should have no need for a magazine that holds more than ten rounds for self-defense.

I would therefore urge that the Committee amend HB 4145 to reverse the increases in permit cost and to remove the exemption for retired law enforcement, before passing to the floor. Alternatively I would urge the Committee to scrap this bill altogether and come back with better fixes in the long session.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Smith