

February 3, 2026

Supporting Testimony

To: Rep. Jason Kropf, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

Re: HB 4145 – Modifies firearm permit provisions of Ballot Measure 114

Passage of HB 4145 will improve the permit process to purchase a firearm that Oregonians passed under M114 back in 2022. Other states with permit to purchase processes have seen decreases in acts of gun violence. These gun violence acts include reduced homicide rates, lower suicide rates, decreased mass shootings and reductions in gun trafficking.

As a state, Oregon is above the national firearm suicide rate. Passage of HB 4145 will create more time and distance between someone acquiring a firearm whose intention is to take their own life. Studies have proven that creating time and distance between firearm access and those contemplating suicide reduces the impulsive act that a suicide will be carried out. Perhaps the crisis is over, or the person has gotten the help they need to resolve the crisis. Suicide by firearm results in death roughly 90% of the time. Other suicide methods end in death of the victim at much lower rates. Those that survive a suicide attempt often get the help they need to resolve the crisis or the crisis is over. Rarely does someone who survives a suicide attempt suicide again.

Passage of HB 4145 will also finally close the “Charleston Loophole” that was created in 1993 with the passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

Passage of HB 4145 also modifies Measure 114 in the following ways:

- ✓ Sets limits on fees charged the Oregon State Police and the permit agent
- ✓ Provides an exception to permit requirement for current and retired law enforcement officers
- ✓ Defines permit eligibility requirements
- ✓ For those that live in incorporated and unincorporated areas, the permit locations are specified
- ✓ The permit agent has up to 60 days to issue or deny a permit application

While passage of HB 4145 may not have prevented the shooting that took my brothers-in-law's life it will most certainly prevent future acts of gun violence. I nor my family want to see other families impacted by gun violence as our family has been.

Sincerely,


Paul Kemp