

Submitter: Michael Roth
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this public comment regarding HB 4145 to express serious concerns related to constitutional rights, public safety outcomes, and the absence of appropriate exemptions for state licensed private security professionals.

HB 4145 fails to recognize the distinct role of licensed private security personnel who operate under an established regulatory framework in Oregon. These professionals are subject to background checks, training standards, and ongoing oversight. They are routinely entrusted with protecting campuses, hospitals, faith based institutions, and other environments where sworn law enforcement response may be delayed or limited. By restricting the lawful possession and use of firearms and standard capacity magazines without an explicit exemption, the bill interferes with the ability of trained and vetted professionals to carry out legitimate public safety responsibilities.

The bill also builds upon Measure 114, which raises significant constitutional concerns under both the Oregon Constitution and the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution. Measure 114 conditions the exercise of a fundamental right on a discretionary permitting process and imposes limitations that function as prior restraints on lawful conduct. Expanding or reinforcing these provisions through HB 4145 risks compounding constitutional defects that remain unresolved and actively litigated.

From a public safety standpoint, further limiting the ability of law abiding citizens to purchase, possess, and use firearms and standard capacity magazines is unlikely to reduce criminal violence. Individuals who comply with the law are not the drivers of firearm related crime. These restrictions instead burden citizens who seek to lawfully defend themselves and others, including those responsible for the safety of vulnerable populations. In emergency situations, particularly in rural areas or campus environments, restricting access to commonly owned and legally possessed equipment may place responsible individuals at a disadvantage during critical incidents.

Public safety policy should focus on criminal misuse rather than lawful ownership. Measures that restrict constitutionally protected rights while offering no clear public safety benefit risk eroding both individual liberties and community trust.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to reconsider HB 4145 in its current form

and to give serious consideration to the constitutional implications of Measure 114. At a minimum, the bill should be amended to explicitly exempt state licensed private security professionals acting within the scope of their lawful duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment and for your consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully,

Michael Roth
Citizen and Private Security Professional