

Submitter: John Straughan
On Behalf Of: Lawful Firearm Owners
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

When will politicians and lawmakers wake up and realize that violence involving firearms is a mental health issue and not a "gun control" problem? Sane, level-headed people who can control their emotions don't attack or kill others with a baseball bat, a knife, a machete, a vehicle, or a firearm. Sane, level-headed people who can control their emotions don't drive their vehicle into a crowd hurting or killing numerous victims. I have seen no action demanding the outlawing of baseball bats, knives, machetes, or vehicles. Yet, every time there is an act of violence involving a firearm, there is an immediate response that more "gun control" laws are needed.

Criminals do not follow any of the laws currently in place and certainly will not follow any new "gun control" law(s). Anyone who is mentally unstable enough to hurt or kill another person will do so with any weapon available, regardless of any law(s). What about the person who follows the laws to the letter, has no criminal record at all, legally purchases a firearm, then a year later decides to shoot and kill someone in a fit of uncontrolled rage? Tell me what "gun control" law(s) would have prevented that. How is that tragic incident the fault of the gun, the gun dealer, or the gun manufacturer? It's NOT! It's the fault of the mentally unstable person who made the decision to use the firearm to harm or kill someone!

When I was a young kid, we all played with toy guns, and toy guns were advertised for sale on television. Later on as a teen, we all hunted and it was common to see a rifle in the rifle rack in a pickup truck in the high school parking lot. Yet, there were never any school shootings and NOBODY I grew up with went crazy and shot or killed someone with a gun. However, kids were raised differently back then. There was discipline, respect, accountability, morality, and work ethic. Kids didn't sit for hours in a dark room playing extremely graphic and violent first-shooter video games.

Sadly, times have drastically changed for the worse in this country. Kids are no longer raised with the ethics and values I grew up with. Everyone wants a trophy, everyone is a victim of something, it's always someone else's fault, and "what's in it for me?". It's no wonder so many people have severe anger problems and other mental health issues which often lead to crime and acts of violence. No law(s) will fix this. Restricting or removing firearms will not fix this. Current laws aren't even being enforced.

As a 69-year old resident of Oregon and responsible gun owner, I strongly OPPOSE HB 4145. I am a certified NRA Range Safety Officer #251752598 and former Secretary of Eagle Cap Shooters in Enterprise, Oregon HB 4145 is another attempt

at legislative implementation of ballot measure 114 with the following changes that were NOT approved by the voters:

- Doubles the amount of time for state bureaucrats to issue the required permit to lawfully purchase a firearm from 30 days to 60 days.
- Increases the cost for the permit by more than 130%, from \$65 to \$150, a clear attempt to make lawful gun ownership unobtainable through financial barriers.
- Carves out on and off duty law enforcement from the permit requirement and magazine capacity limitations.
- Pushes the permit requirement date to January 2028, showing the state isn't even remotely prepared to take on a permitting scheme.

Again, I strongly OPPOSE HB 4145. Only 50.1% of voters approved Ballot Measure 114 as presented to them in 2022. This bill goes far beyond the will of the voters with more gun control proposals that will only delay and increase costs to law-abiding gun owners. This bill does nothing to address crime or violence in our state.

Once again, it is the people who are already purchasing, owning, and using firearms in a lawful way who will be unduly burdened by yet another law which will NOT be followed by criminals!

Thank you,
John K. Straughan
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