

Submitter:

Suzanne Fernstrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4145

As your constituent and supporter of Brady (bradyunited.org), I ask you to please vote yes on HB 4145. In 2022, nearly one million Oregonians voted for Ballot Measure 114 to establish a permit to purchase system for firearms in our state. However, HB 4145 is required to implement this system — and we need it now.

Oregon is facing a firearm suicide crisis: While white males over the age of 34 accounted for 23% of the population, they accounted for 58% of all gun suicide deaths in 2023, and 489 Oregonians died by firearm suicide in that year alone. One life lost to firearm suicide is one too many, and you have the chance to pass legislation that is proven to reduce firearm suicide and homicide.

In Connecticut, permit to purchase law was associated with a 27% reduction in firearm homicides and 33% reduction in firearm suicides. States with permit to purchase laws had fewer crime guns recovered by police, both within and outside of the state. And these laws are also effective at preventing mass shootings. Oregonians deserve to have the same life-saving system in place, especially because so many of us voted for it in the first place.

HB 4145 will help implement Oregon's permit to purchase system because it will give the State time to develop the program infrastructure. It also includes a variety of other technical fixes that will allow Oregon to administer the program effectively.

The passage of this bill is essential to ensure the permit to purchase system can actually be implemented and prevent firearm suicide and homicide. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue. My community is counting on your support.