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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

As a concerned citizen of Oregon, I strongly oppose House Bill 4145, which seeks to modify and implement aspects of Ballot Measure 114 by imposing additional barriers to lawful firearm ownership. This legislation represents a direct assault on the fundamental rights enshrined in the United States Constitution, particularly the Second Amendment, and undermines the principle that constitutional protections must remain unhindered and accessible to all law-abiding Americans.

The Second Amendment states unequivocally: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This right is not a suggestion; it is a core safeguard against tyranny and a guarantee of personal security. Yet HB 4145 introduces cumbersome requirements that effectively infringe upon this right by complicating the process of exercising it. For instance, the bill doubles the timeframe for state authorities to issue a required permit from 30 days to 60 days and hikes the permit fee from \$65 to \$150—a more than 130% increase. These changes are not mere administrative tweaks; they create financial and bureaucratic hurdles that disproportionately burden everyday Oregonians, making it harder for them to acquire firearms for self-defense, hunting, or sport. Delaying the permit requirement until January 1, 2028, does nothing to mitigate the long-term erosion of rights—it simply postpones the inevitable infringement.

Constitutional rights are not meant to be qualified by excessive red tape or arbitrary delays. The framers of the Constitution did not envision a system where exercising a fundamental liberty requires navigating a labyrinth of fees, waiting periods, and government approvals. Such measures effectively take away our rights by rendering them impractical or unattainable for many, especially those in rural areas like Roseburg or low-income households who may find the increased costs prohibitive. This is not protection; it is prohibition in disguise. Moreover, the bill carves out special exemptions for active, off-duty, and retired law enforcement officers, parole officers, and others, creating a two-tiered system where government agents enjoy privileges denied to the general public. If the right to bear arms is truly essential for security, why should it be easier for some than for others?

This hypocrisy becomes even more glaring when contrasted with modern political debates on other constitutional rights. Many Democrats argue that requiring identification to vote is akin to "Jim Crow" tactics, suppressing participation and disenfranchising minorities by adding even minimal barriers to the ballot box. Yet, the same logic is inexplicably absent when it comes to the Second Amendment.

Complicating gun ownership through inflated fees, extended wait times, and permit mandates is somehow deemed acceptable, even necessary, despite the fact that it achieves the same suppressive effect on a different fundamental right. If a simple ID

requirement for voting is seen as an undue burden, how can we justify layering on costs and delays that make self-defense—a right explicitly protected by the Constitution—more difficult? This double standard reveals a selective application of principles: barriers are "racist" in one context but "common sense" in another, all while chipping away at the freedoms that define our republic.

HB 4145 does not enhance public safety; it overrides the will of voters who already weighed in on Ballot Measure 114 and imposes draconian controls that punish law-abiding citizens while criminals, by definition, ignore such laws. I urge Oregon lawmakers to reject this bill and uphold the unalienable rights of all citizens. Our Constitution demands no less.