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Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Testimony in Opposition of HB 4145 —

Modifies the firearm permit provisions of Ballot Measure 114

Good morning members of the committee,

My name is Erin Hansell-Heideman, and I am writing to respectfully oppose HB 4145.

I come to this issue as someone who takes firearm safety and responsibility seriously. I have served as a 4-H shooting sports leader, competitive trap shooter, I hunt occasionally as my farming schedule allows, and hold a concealed carry permit. I work diligently to do the right thing when purchasing or selling a firearm, and I teach youth and adults alike the importance of safe handling, storage, and accountability. Because of that experience, I am deeply concerned that HB 4145 resurrects the failed framework of Measure 114—creating the same operational problems and constitutional concerns without delivering meaningful public safety improvements.

Operationally unworkable:

HB 4145 requires every firearm purchaser to obtain a permit from their local police chief or sheriff, yet it provides no centralized system, electronic portal, or automated tracking. Instead, it pushes the burden onto Oregon's 36 counties—many of which are already understaffed and underfunded—to independently manage applications with no guarantee of consistency or timely processing. Our law enforcement agencies are already stretched thin. In rural communities like mine, the nearest sheriff's office is 60 miles away, making in-person permitting requirements especially burdensome and unrealistic for working families. We should not burden law enforcement—or rural residents—further without providing infrastructure, staffing, or funding.

Denies due process:

The bill allows the Oregon State Police to deny permits if background checks cannot be completed due to incomplete state records. That means law-abiding applicants can be penalized

for state database deficiencies with no clear appeal process, no correction timeline, and no meaningful recourse. This is fundamentally unjust.

Creates inconsistent standards:

HB 4145 mandates firearm safety training but establishes no standardized curriculum, instructor registry, or uniform statewide requirements. One county may accept online training while another may not. This patchwork approach creates confusion, unequal access, and inconsistent enforcement across Oregon.

Fails to improve public safety:

Most importantly, this bill does not address the real drivers of gun violence: straw purchasing, criminal trafficking, stolen firearms, enforcement of domestic violence protections, suicide prevention, and access to mental health services. HB 4145 burdens law-abiding citizens who already follow the law, while those intent on committing crimes will continue to obtain firearms through illegal channels.

Increases cost, delays rights, and creates unequal treatment:

The permit fee increase from \$65 to \$150 more than doubles the cost for responsible citizens. Extending issuance timelines from 30 to 60 days creates lengthy delays in exercising a constitutional right. At the same time, exempting retired law enforcement from the 10-round magazine limit creates a two-tiered system where former officers retain access to tools denied to everyday citizens—despite all of us being held to the same laws and responsibilities.

Unfunded and unprepared:

Delaying implementation until 2028 implicitly acknowledges the system is not ready. Yet the bill provides no funding, staffing plan, centralized infrastructure, or statewide coordination to make this program workable. Delaying a broken system does not fix it.

I believe in responsible gun ownership, meaningful safety training, and policies that actually reduce violence. HB 4145 does none of those things. I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and instead pursue solutions that target criminal activity, improve mental health access, strengthen domestic violence enforcement, and support existing law enforcement efforts without burdening those who already follow the law.

Thank you for your time and for representing Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Erin Hansell-Heideman
Ione, OR/Gilliam County