

Submitter: Zachery McLaughlin  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I oppose HB 4145 because it makes lawful self-defense harder to access when time matters most.

People in domestic violence and stalking situations often have a short window to act. They may be fleeing a home, changing locks, seeking a protective order, or relocating with little notice. Adding a permit-to-purchase process with longer approval timelines and higher fees creates delay and friction at the exact moment someone needs options.

HB 4145 expands a system that can function as a denial through delay. The bill stretches the permit decision window and raises the maximum permit fee. It also adds fingerprinting and photographing requirements and places lawful permit holders into a law enforcement database. These steps may sound administrative. In practice they raise the cost of lawful compliance and increase the consequences of paperwork backlogs, staffing gaps, and simple bureaucratic failure.

HB 4145 also creates unequal rules by carving out exceptions for certain active and retired law enforcement while everyone else faces the burden. Rights and access to protection should not depend on a job category.

If the goal is public safety, focus on enforcing existing prohibitions on violent offenders, improving background check capacity, and resourcing domestic violence prevention and victim support. Do not build a permitting gate that blocks the people the system is supposed to protect.

Please vote NO on HB 4145.

Respectfully,

Zachery McLaughlin  
Oregon City, Oregon