

Submitter: Nicole Chaisson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

As a woman who survived domestic violence, I stand before you today to strongly oppose House Bill 4145. My name is Nicole Chaisson I am an organizer with Wasco County for the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary and I speak from painful personal experience years ago, I lived in fear every day. My abuser was controlling and violent his tools started with intimidation and threats much like what Rep Kropf used with Rep Tran. That kind of pressure creating a hostile environment, bullying a fellow lawmaker into silence mirrors the very control tactics abusers use. Narcissism and male fragility like that doesnt just undermine democracy; they put women in danger by dismissing concerns and forcing compliance at any cost.

After my ex fractured my neck I left and what gave me a fighting chance to escape and rebuild my life was my ability to arm myself for self-defense after I left. I moved to a rural area where there was one sheriff on duty for the whole county. I obtained a concealed handgun permit and a firearm quickly enough to protect myself during that vulnerable period when abusers are most dangerous right after separation.HB 4145 would make that much harder for women like me. By extending the permit processing time from 30 days to 60 days, tripling application fees (from \$65 to \$150), increasing renewal costs to \$110, and adding bureaucratic hurdles like expanded background processes and potential delays, this bill creates dangerous barriers. For survivors fleeing abuse often women with limited financial resources, no family support, or in immediate danger—waiting an extra month or paying hundreds more could be the difference between life and death.

Delaying lawful purchases for law-abiding citizens doesn't address the root causes of mental health crises or illegal firearms already in circulation. What it will do is disarm potential victims of domestic violence at their most vulnerable time.Research consistently shows that domestic abusers are far more likely to kill their partners. But the reverse is also true: women who can defend themselves with firearms have a powerful deterrent and means of survival against armed abusers. This bill doesn't close loopholes on abusers it punishes the innocent and the vulnerable.I survived because I could exercise my right to self-defense without excessive government delays or costs. Don't take that away from other Oregon women. Please vote no on HB 4145. Protect survivors, not disarm them.Thank you for your time and for listening to a survivor's voice.

Nicole Chaisson
The Dalles