

Submitter: Vandy Shelton  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4145  
Senate Rules Committee  
Hearing at 1:00 p.m.

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a lifelong Oregonian, a mother, and a law-abiding firearm owner. I am writing in strong opposition to HB 4145.

I want to speak not as a partisan, but as a woman who has made the personal decision to take responsibility for her own safety and for the protection of her family.

For women like me, the right to keep and bear arms is not theoretical. It is not political theater. It is not a slogan. It is the equalizer that allows someone of smaller stature to defend herself against a stronger attacker. It is the tool that gives a single mother peace of mind when she locks her door at night. It is the safeguard that exists when seconds matter and help may be minutes away.

HB 4145 imposes costly, complex, and burdensome requirements on citizens who have done nothing wrong. It creates financial and procedural barriers to exercising a constitutional right. When the government raises fees and adds mandatory training, application hurdles, and permit requirements without clear infrastructure in place, it does not make communities safer—it makes lawful ownership inaccessible.

The people most harmed by this are not criminals. Criminals do not apply for permits. Criminals do not follow magazine restrictions. Criminals do not stand in line and pay fees.

The people most harmed are low-income women, single mothers, seniors on fixed incomes, and working families already stretched thin. A constitutional right should not depend on whether someone can afford escalating fees or navigate bureaucratic delays.

I find it deeply troubling that this bill punishes possession of magazines that thousands of Oregonians lawfully purchased. Changing the rules after the fact and threatening penalties for previously lawful behavior erodes trust between citizens and their government.

As a woman, I refuse to accept the premise that I should be dependent on others for my protection. I refuse to accept that the state should determine whether I have “earned” the ability to defend myself. The Constitution does not say the right to bear arms shall not be infringed unless the legislature decides to make it expensive or complicated.

If the goal is safety, then focus on violent offenders. Enforce existing laws. Address repeat criminal behavior. Improve mental health resources. But do not place new burdens on those who have followed every rule.

Rights are not privileges for the wealthy. They are not favors granted by the government. They are protections meant to apply equally to every citizen.

HB 4145 does not target criminals. It targets compliance.

As a mother, I want safer communities. As a citizen, I want enforceable, fair, and constitutional laws. As a woman, I want the ability to protect myself without begging the state for permission.

I respectfully urge this committee to reject HB 4145.

Thank you for your time and consideration.