

Senators,

HB 4145 unduly frustrates the right to obtain a weapon for defense as is required of a fundamental right under the Oregon State Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. No other fundamental right functions in this manner. We do not need to buy a permit and wait 60 days to have a social media account or pay to take a class before we are allowed to use a phone or write a book. This bill seeks only to harm law-abiding citizens. If a senator were to present numbers on the dangers of speaking in public as they brought numbers for firearm suicides on the floor, would they burden our right to free speech and seek to legislate it out of existence?

Many details were scrutinized along its path and were ignored by those on the Judiciary Committee and the Democrat representatives. The idea that was put forth by the Democratic representatives was that this bill follows the will of the people who voted in favor of BM 114. Section 1 clearly states "Oregon Laws 2023 (Ballot Measure 114 (2022)), is repealed." So that measure so proudly lauded by them during their debate on the House floor was removed entirely and replaced with HB 4145 which possesses worse provisions. How is that the will of their constituents?

Section 18: "Challenge to Legality of Act" is blatantly discriminatory towards any who does not reside in Marion County. It was placed into this law to disenfranchise and frustrate the rights of those living in all other counties, especially our rural ones. This was done as a safeguard against what happened with *Arnold v. Kotek* when it was brought before Judge Raschio of Harney County. To ensure that the wise and all-knowing legislators in the ivory tower of Salem wouldn't be made fools of again by a poor hayseed from out in the eastern prairies. I urge any senator who votes "aye" on 4145 to go visit any of the smaller or rural counties and spit in the faces of all of those citizens. At least then you'd be showing more open honesty towards them than what is shown here in the Capitol Building.

To speak further on open honesty, the manner in which this bill was passed by the committee should terrify all legislators. If it passes to become law, it will show that fierce coercion and thuggery are the way to get things done in the Legislature. If that is so, be prepared in the long session with blackjacks and car batteries because that is how bills get passed in Oregon these days. Not through honest debate and rationality but with threats and skullduggery like a barbarian tribe.

And all of this for a bill that has a chance of being deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court this year. All of this effort and scandal would be for not but eggs on the faces of a few representatives and senators. There were no solutions, no answers brought about by those who voted in favor of this bill. No true arguments made. Just more pabulum dripped from the witless mouths of spineless actors seeking to disarm the already beleaguered populace of this state by handcuffing those who obey the rule of law.