

Submitter: Andrew Caramagno
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Oregon HB 4145 represents a troubling overreach that raises serious constitutional concerns. At its core, the bill threatens fundamental rights by imposing burdens and delays that functionally deny lawful citizens the full exercise of their constitutional protections. Rights delayed are rights denied. When government erects costly procedural hurdles, excessive fees, or prolonged waiting periods, it transforms guaranteed liberties into privileges contingent on bureaucracy and personal wealth—an approach that runs contrary to both the spirit and the letter of the Constitution.

Beyond the constitutional defects, HB 4145 carries significant monetary consequences for working families, people struggling to make ends meet and simply all Oregonians. The added compliance costs, administrative fees, and regulatory mandates will disproportionately impact lower- and middle-income residents, effectively pricing many out of exercising their rights. Meanwhile, criminals—by definition—do not follow statutes or regulatory schemes. Layering new restrictions on law-abiding citizens will not deter those already willing to break the law; it will only burden those who seek to comply. Public safety is not strengthened by penalizing responsible citizens while bad actors continue operating outside the legal framework.