

To Whom It May Concern:

Ballot Measure 114 was sold to Oregonians under the guise of progressivism and public safety. However, with the introduction of House Bill 4145 (2026), the mask has slipped. What remains is a legislative framework that mirrors some of the most regressive and discriminatory policies in American history. By centralizing power in the hands of police, creating insurmountable economic barriers, and carving out elite privileges for law enforcement, sponsors like Representatives Jason Kropf, Dacia Grayber, April Dobson, Lisa Fragala, and Senator Floyd Prozanski are not protecting Oregonians—they are systematically disarming the most vulnerable among us. One has to wonder if these sponsors secretly harbor a disdain for the working class or if they are operating as "undercover Republicans" by pushing policies that empower the state and target marginalized communities.

Gatekeeping Rights: A Tool for Sexism and Transphobia

The most dangerous element of HB 4145 is the "subjective denial" standard. By allowing a police chief or sheriff to deny a permit based on "reasonable grounds" regarding an applicant's "mental or psychological state" or a "past pattern of behavior," the bill hands a blank check to an institution with a well-documented history of bias.

For the LGBTQ+ community, particularly trans Oregonians, this is a direct threat. In a climate where trans identities are frequently pathologized by those in positions of authority, a "subjective" assessment of mental health could easily be weaponized to deny trans people the right to self-defense. Similarly, for women—especially those seeking protection from domestic abusers—the extended 60-day waiting period and the reliance on police discretion create a deadly bottleneck. When the state gets to decide who is "sane" or "stable" enough to exercise a right, it historically uses that power to marginalize those who don't fit a traditional, heteronormative mold.

The Modern Poll Tax: Institutionalized Racism

HB 4145's decision to hike permit fees to \$150, with renewals at \$110, is a calculated strike against the poor. When you add the costs of mandatory safety training, fingerprints, and travel to a sheriff's office, the price of a "right" becomes several hundred dollars. This is a modern-day poll tax, and its effects are inherently racist.

By making the Second Amendment a "pay-to-play" system, the sponsors have ensured that self-defense is a luxury reserved for the white and wealthy. Black and Hispanic Oregonians, who are statistically more likely to face economic hardship and live in over-policed neighborhoods where self-defense is a necessity, are the ones being priced out of their constitutional rights. This isn't an accidental oversight; it is a structural barrier that keeps power in the hands of the affluent while leaving marginalized communities vulnerable.

The Law Enforcement Elite vs. The Disarmed Citizen

HB 4145 makes it clear that some Oregonians are "more equal" than others. The bill creates a permanent elite class by exempting active and retired law enforcement from the permit requirements and the large-capacity magazine ban—even for personal, off-duty, and recreational use.

This is the height of hypocrisy. The sponsors argue that these magazines and "unpermitted" firearms are too dangerous for the public, yet they are perfectly safe in the hands of a retired

officer with no active duty requirements. This "rules for thee, but not for me" mentality suggests that the goal isn't to reduce gun violence, but to ensure that the state and its agents maintain a monopoly on force. It is an insult to responsible, trained citizens who often maintain a higher level of proficiency than the average officer.

Weakening the Shield Against Federal Overreach

Beyond the local implications, these measures undermine a fundamental pillar of American liberty: the ability of the state and its citizens to resist federal tyranny. The Founding Fathers intended for a "well-regulated militia"—the body of the people—to be the ultimate check on a government that might overstep its bounds.

At a time when federal overreach is a growing concern for people across the political spectrum, Oregon's leadership is intent on making resistance impossible. By disarming the populace and centralizing legal challenges in Marion County, the state is effectively surrendering its citizens to the whims of the federal government. A disarmed citizenry has no leverage; they are subjects, not stakeholders. By stripping Oregonians of the tools of self-reliance, Kropf, Grayber, and their colleagues are betraying the very spirit of independence that the Second Amendment was designed to protect.

Conclusion: An Emergency of Accountability

HB 4145 is an "emergency" only in the sense that its sponsors want to bypass the will of the voters before they realize what has been taken from them. With its immediate effective date and the restriction of legal venues to Salem, this bill is a masterclass in anti-democratic maneuvering. Whether through malice or a complete detachment from the reality of marginalized Oregonians, the sponsors of this bill have authored a disaster. They have turned a constitutional right into a filtered, expensive privilege that favors the police and the wealthy while punishing the poor, the trans community, and anyone else who doesn't fit the state's subjective "ideal." This is not the Oregon way; it is a blueprint for state-sponsored inequality.

Thank You,
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