

Submitter: Ryan Nead
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan, and I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB 4145.

This bill represents a troubling step away from transparent, accountable government and toward coercive policymaking that ignores the will of Oregonians. HB 4145 does not reflect public consensus, nor does it address the real priorities facing working families, rural communities, or small businesses in this state. Instead, it reinforces the growing belief that decisions are being made behind closed doors, without honest debate or respect for dissenting voices.

Of particular concern is what occurred during the bill's movement in the House. There are widespread reports and public discussion that Representative Jason Kropf pressured Representative Tran to change her vote from "No" to "Yes." This raises serious questions about the integrity of the legislative process. Legislators must be free to vote their conscience and represent their constituents—without coercion, intimidation, or political strong-arming. The appearance of forced compliance erodes public trust and damages the legitimacy of any bill that results from it.

Oregonians are paying attention. Actions like this do not discourage civic engagement—they fuel it. Bills such as HB 4145 are galvanizing voters who feel ignored, dismissed, and overridden. Rather than silencing opposition, this approach is driving record political engagement, particularly among voters who feel their values are no longer represented in Salem. If leadership continues down this path, it will almost certainly have significant electoral consequences, including reshaping statewide leadership in the upcoming election.

Good policy should withstand scrutiny, debate, and dissent. HB 4145 has not met that standard. Its advancement has relied on pressure rather than persuasion, speed rather than substance, and power rather than principle.

I urge this committee to reject HB 4145, restore respect for open deliberation, and send a clear message that Oregon's legislative process belongs to the people—not to political maneuvering.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.