

Submitter: Kobe Manalo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature and State Senators,
I am Kobe Manalo, a concerned resident of Oregon. I strongly oppose HB 4145, which implements aspects of Ballot Measure 114 via a permit-to-purchase system for firearms (delayed to 2028), higher fees, longer processing, and law enforcement exemptions. While supporting responsible gun ownership, this bill unconstitutionally expands government control, burdens law-abiding citizens, risks discrimination, and ignores violence's root causes.

HB 4145 infringes the Second Amendment: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Affirmed in Heller (2008) and Bruen (2022) as an individual right to self-defense, it is turned into a revocable privilege through permits with subjective checks, fingerprinting, and local approval. This echoes historical disarmament efforts and undermines Fourteenth Amendment equal protection by disproportionately burdening ordinary citizens.

Founding Fathers emphasized armed citizens against tyranny. James Madison in Federalist No. 46: Americans possess "the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation... [where] the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." Thomas Jefferson: "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms." HB 4145 betrays this by letting officials decide who may exercise the right, akin to struck-down "may-issue" laws in Bruen. Excessive controls fail to reduce crime while infringing rights. Chicago enforced strict laws (handgun bans, registration) until partially overturned in 2010, yet ranks high in gun violence; in 2022, over 600 homicides, many with illegal guns smuggled from elsewhere—criminals ignore rules, burdening the law-abiding. Washington, D.C.'s near-total handgun ban (1976–Heller 2008) made it the "murder capital" with homicide rates far above average. These show controls target honest citizens, leave criminals armed via black markets, create false security, disarm the vulnerable, and violate the Second Amendment's self-defense purpose.

A gun safety course requirement is reasonable and preferred over permits. It educates on handling, storage, and responsibilities—like driver's education—reducing accidents objectively and accessibly, without subjective approvals, fees (\$150 initial, \$110 renewal acting as poll taxes), or 60-day delays. It promotes responsibility while respecting the right, avoiding gatekeeping abuse.

Exempting on-duty, off-duty, and retired law enforcement from permits and large-capacity magazine bans creates a two-tiered rights system, violating Fourteenth Amendment equal protection by deeming only "elite" citizens trustworthy. It breeds resentment, erodes trust (ordinary citizens like teachers or retirees face barriers officers avoid), and ignores that retirees may lack ongoing training. If needed for

safety, rules should apply universally; exemptions reveal control motives over protection.

Local law enforcement discretion in approving/denying permits risks discrimination based on politics, religion, or race. In Jim Crow South, gun laws disarmed Black Americans to prevent self-defense against lynchings. Martin Luther King Jr. was denied a concealed carry permit in Alabama in 1956 after his home bombing, despite threats. Pre-Bruen “may-issue” states like New York and California granted permits via connections/wealth/favoritism, excluding minorities and dissenters. Even “shall-issue” systems allow processing/eligibility bias in polarized times, enabling suppression.

HB 4145 dishonors our constitutional heritage, ignores failed controls, and invites inequality. Reject it; focus on enforcing laws against criminals, mental health support, and voluntary education. Protect rights, don't erode them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,