

Submitter: Melody Adams
On Behalf Of: Citizens for the Constitution
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

While I fully support efforts to improve public safety, this bill does not accomplish that goal. Instead, it places significant burdens on law-abiding Oregonians while doing little to deter individuals who already disregard the law.

1. HB 4145-A (as well as Measure 114) Punishes Law-Abiding Citizens

This bill expands and complicates the permit-to-purchase system created under Ballot Measure 114, adding new fees, longer approval timelines, additional requirements, and further bureaucratic delays. These measures disproportionately impact responsible firearm owners—people who follow the law, complete background checks, and safely store their firearms. In short, it goes beyond the infringements presented by Measure 114 and is even worse.

Meanwhile, individuals with criminal intent are not affected. They do not apply for permits, attend training, fill out forms, or submit fingerprints. They obtain firearms through illegal means. By creating new and more cumbersome barriers for lawful citizens, this bill punishes the very people who are not the source of gun violence.

2. Criminals Will Not Comply With This Law

Those who commit violent crimes using firearms already ignore Oregon's existing laws regarding possession, transfers, serial numbers, and background checks. There is no evidence that expanding administrative hurdles or increasing permit fees will stop criminal behavior. Criminals will continue to circumvent legal channels, while ordinary, responsible Oregonians face new obstacles to exercising a fundamental right. This is not about safety this is about control and removing constitutional rights of our citizens.

3. HB 4145-A Conflicts With the Oregon Constitution

Article I, Section 27 of the Oregon Constitution clearly states:

“The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the State.”

HB 4145-A effectively transforms this constitutional right into a government-granted privilege dependent on fees, paperwork, processing delays, and discretionary denials. By conditioning the exercise of a constitutional right on state permission—particularly through a system that can take up to 60 days or longer to process—the bill violates both the spirit and the letter of Oregon's constitutional protections.

The Legislature should not advance a bill that creates constitutional conflict,

especially while the Oregon Supreme Court is actively considering the legality of Measure 114, which this measure directly modifies.

4. This Bill Is Not the Solution Oregon Needs

We all want safer communities. But HB 4145-A focuses on restricting lawful conduct rather than addressing the root causes of crime—such as illegal trafficking, repeat violent offenders, drug crises, and gaps in mental health services.

Effective public safety policy targets criminal behavior, not responsible citizens.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to REJECT HB 4145-A. It burdens the law-abiding, leaves criminals untouched, and conflicts with Oregon's constitutional protections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.