

Submitter: Nathan Foster
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Hello,

These days, there are a great many issues that require attention, but today, I am writing today to inform you that I oppose HB4145. Generally I am not a single-issue voter, but the terms of this bill are so egregious that I am forced to be; if you support this bill, you will lose my support in any upcoming election. Out of respect for your time, I want to be as concise as possible, but I would like to illustrate a few of the reasons why I believe this bill is unacceptable:

1. The current administration under Donald Trump is, every day, eroding the rights of any individuals who oppose it. It is unconscionable that at this, of all times, Oregon Democrats are considering a bill to further restrict the rights of Oregon residents.
2. My friends in the LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and other marginalized communities have been subjected to increased violence that is effectively sponsored by the current regime. Additionally, ICE/CBP agents with little to no training run amok kidnaping and killing with no accountability for their actions. This bill will deteriorate the ability for targeted groups to defend themselves against this reckless hate.
3. This bill discriminates against poor Oregonians by drastically increasing the fees to exercise their Second Amendment rights. Why would you support a bill that grants the rich more freedom than the poor? This is an absurd reversal of the very concept of equality under the law.
4. Overly-restrictive provisions, such as the magazine capacity limit, are performative at best. What is called a "high-capacity magazine" is in reality, a standard capacity; firearms with this capacity have been designed with it from the start, and have existed, mass-produced, and in common use for over 150 years. To say these are "new" or a "special threat" is an admission of ignorance to the history of firearms and manufacturing.
5. Declaring this, of all things, to be an "emergency" is frankly, insulting. Don't get me wrong, there are several ongoing emergencies that need to be addressed, but this? I cannot find any justification besides forcing through a measure that you know is unpopular. This indicates to me abusive intent, and a complete disregard for due process. Supporting this conclusion is that the homicide rate in Portland is drastically reduced in the past several years, completely independent of this legislation; how can you declare an emergency for something that is at its lowest level in years?

6. Law enforcement officers are exempted from many of the requirements of this bill. I would argue that this creates “special class” of citizens for those who already enjoy a far greater degree of legal protection than others. It is difficult to see this as anything other than codified discrimination.

7. There is currently no infrastructure to support the training, and effective licensing provisions of this bill, as has been reiterated by the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association. This not only puts undue burden on already stretched police forces who are trying to support their community, but more critically, there is currently no way to for citizens to comply. A law passed that cannot be complied with is a law intentionally passed in bad-faith, and is an insult to any notion of justice.

I am a law-abiding citizen, and try to maintain trust in the democratic process, but how am I supposed to support laws that are designed with such antagonistic intent?

Thank you for your time.

Nathan Foster