

**Testimony of Cecilia Cox in Support of HB 4145**  
**Senate Rules Committee, Oregon State Legislature**  
**Friday, Feb. 29, 1 pm**

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice-chair, and members of the committee.

My name is Cecilia Cox. I am a sophomore attending Crescent Valley High School in Corvallis, Oregon, where I co-lead my school's chapter of Students Demand Action.

Every day at school, with every slam of a locker, with every yell, with every chair falling, I feel terrified that an individual, who should not have been able to obtain a firearm in the first place, will break into my school, harm my peers, and leave behind an everlasting wound on my community. Every day, as my twin siblings, Cole and Carly, head off to Laticia Carson Elementary, my heart aches with an overwhelming sense of dread. They are just 7 years old, yet I find myself wondering—will they be safe today? Will they come home tonight? With each class period that unfolds, I can't help but silently pray that they won't become another statistic in an epidemic that should have been stopped decades ago. I wish for a world where all children and teenagers can learn and grow without the threat of violence hovering over them, where adults and the elderly can shop in a mall without fear, and where the LGBTQ community and people of color can attend nightclubs and universities without being slaughtered. Yet we are faced with a painful reality. Time and time again, after children are murdered in school, our politicians and lawmakers have proven to us that our safety is not a priority, that our lives are not valuable. And we are told that this is unavoidable, but does any other country live this way?

Thankfully, Oregon voters stood up and said this has to end when they passed Measure 114, and HB 4145 will provide the important revisions and resources needed to implement it. This includes changing the permit requirement start date to January 1st, 2028, giving permit applicants more options to complete required training, and ensuring Oregonians in rural areas can apply for permits with their local sheriff.

Oregon voters have been waiting for Measure 114 since late 2022. Not only are our legislators responsible for protecting the safety of our communities, but also for upholding the will, interest, and needs of Oregonians. 72% of Americans support the requirement to obtain a license from law enforcement before purchasing a firearm, and Measure 114 showed Oregon voters are no exception.

I urge you to stand with us in the battle against gun violence. If our state cannot implement Measure 114 effectively, it will let the voters—and all of us who go to school in fear—down.

Thank you.