

Submitter: Kristin Walker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Hello, my name is Kristin Walker and I live in Clackamas County. I am writing today in support of House Bill 4145. As an Oregon resident who has experienced gun violence in my neighborhood and on my property in two separate locations in the Portland metro area; as a public educator who has spent years participating in mass shooting drills and anticipating the worst; and, most importantly, as the parent of two school-age children attending public school in Oregon who shouldn't feel afraid at school; I understand the urgency to create stronger gun safety laws in our state. Because of my personal experiences I'm now a member of Moms Demand Action in Oregon. House Bill 4145 is our top priority this legislative session.

Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Oregon, and the leading cause nationwide. We can and must do better. Oregon made great progress when we enacted a permit to purchase law in 2022. The provisions in House Bill 4145 will enable state agencies and law enforcement departments across the state to implement life-saving gun violence prevention laws to the best of their ability. I urge you to lead our state toward a future free from gun violence by doing your part to advance House Bill 4145. Thank you.

House Bill 4145 honors the will of Oregon voters who passed Measure 114 in 2022 and provides the clarity needed to implement those life-saving policies effectively and responsibly. This bill fixes key implementation issues by giving agencies time to build the permit system, ensuring consistent judicial review, allowing thorough background checks, creating sustainable funding, and preventing permits from being issued based on incomplete information.

By addressing these gaps, House Bill 4145 moves Measure 114 from principle to practice while respecting constitutional rights and prioritizing public safety.

I urge you to move House Bill 4145 forward without delay. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristin Walker
Clackamas County, OR