

Submitter: Ebbs Michael
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris, a Oregon resident and concerned citizen committed to defending our constitutional rights and the integrity of Oregon's legislative process. I testify today in strong opposition to House Bill 4145.

This bill modifies the firearm permit system created by Ballot Measure 114 (2022) but goes far beyond implementation. It doubles permit processing time from 30 to 60 days, raises application fees from \$65 to \$150 and renewal fees from \$50 to \$110, delays full permit requirements until 2028, expands exemptions, and alters background checks. These changes impose significant financial and bureaucratic barriers on law-abiding citizens exercising a constitutional right, create privacy risks through expanded data collection, and deviate from what voters approved—effectively functioning as a de facto registry without enhancing public safety.

Worse, HB 4145 advanced through intimidation and procedural abuse. As House Judiciary Chair and chief sponsor, Rep. Jason Kropf pressured Rep. Thuy Tran during a February 16, 2026 committee vote on a key amendment. After Rep. Tran voted “no” (creating a likely tie and stalling the bill), Rep. Kropf halted proceedings, called a recess, and escorted her from the room for a nearly 20-minute private conversation. She returned visibly shaken—trembling and teary-eyed—and reversed her vote to “yes,” allowing the measure to proceed.

Rep. Tran later described the encounter as creating a “hostile working environment.” A formal complaint alleged verbal abuse and intimidation. Witnesses corroborated her distress. Rather than investigate, Democratic leadership pushed the bill forward, prompting Republican boycotts in protest. This reflects a broader pattern: using coercion to “change the rules” instead of open debate, prioritizing partisan goals over ethical governance and eroding trust in our institutions.

HB 4145 ignores root causes of violence—mental health, drug crises, lax criminal enforcement—while burdening responsible gun owners with higher costs, delays, and invasive oversight. It overrides voter intent on Measure 114 and was advanced through undemocratic tactics that silenced dissent even within the majority party.

Allowing such coercion sets a dangerous precedent: intimidation replacing deliberation, constitutional rights eroded under the pretext of safety.

I urge you to reject HB 4145 entirely. Oregon deserves transparent, respectful legislation that respects our freedoms—not measures tainted by pressure and overreach.