

Submitter: Mary Burns
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Dear Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 4145 as a practical approach to gun violence prevention in Oregon.

The Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms. That right has long coexisted with reasonable, safety focused regulation. Just as we require licensing and training to operate vehicles safely, states may implement thoughtful safeguards that promote public safety while preserving lawful ownership. A strong body of research shows that permit to purchase systems and waiting periods are associated with reductions in firearm suicide and homicide rates. Advancing HB 4145 also reflects the will of Oregon voters, who have expressed support for stronger, common sense firearm safety standards grounded in accountability and prevention. Thoughtful implementation honors both constitutional rights and the democratic process.

This is especially important in Central Oregon, where suicide rates are consistently higher than the state average and firearms account for a significant portion of those deaths. Research consistently shows that creating time and space between a moment of crisis and access to a firearm saves lives. Families across Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties know the reality of losing loved ones in moments of acute distress. Policies that encourage responsible ownership, secure storage, and deliberate access are not an attack on rights. They are tools that protect neighbors, veterans, young people, and rural families alike.

HB 4145 reflects the principle that constitutional rights and public safety can and must coexist. It strengthens accountability, supports responsible gun owners, and addresses the leading driver of firearm death in our state. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,
Mary Burns