

Submitter: Sylvia Banks  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chairman Jama, and members of the committee my name is Sylvia Banks. I am writing to ask you to vote for HB4145A

I became a passionate advocate for gun violence prevention following the death of my dear, sweet grandson, Micheal. Micheal died by suicide nearly 10 years ago at the age of 10, and the lives of all who loved him have been forever altered.

Micheal was a bright, caring, compassionate kid. He loved sports, especially baseball and basketball, and was really good at them. He was an excellent student. Nothing would ever lead anyone to believe he was a suicide risk, but he took his own life with a gun that was stored in the top of his parents closet, loaded and ready to protect his family in case of an intruder. The real danger to the family came from that loaded gun, not from some unknown potential intruder.

Nothing can bring our sweet Micheal back, but I can lift my voice in the effort to prevent unnecessary deaths from happening in the future.

That's why I am asking you to support HB 4145A, which improves the permit provisions of Ballot Measure 114. This Measure was approved by voters almost 4 years ago and should be implemented as soon as possible. This bill provides technical fixes that will ensure that the system can get up and running smoothly.

Measure 114 requires a completed background check, safety training, and a permit to purchase a firearm. Research shows that permits and background checks significantly reduce firearm suicides and homicides. Limits on large capacity magazines reduce mass shootings.

Far too many people are losing their lives to gun violence. In Oregon, more than 640 people die each year. We need to do more to curb the epidemic of gun violence. HB 4145A will ensure the state can put these voter-approved, life-saving policies in place quickly and effectively.

Thank you, Sylvia.