

Submitter: Leonard Cortez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Oregon Representatives,

?I am writing to express my staunch opposition to HB 4145. This bill creates egregious financial barriers to a constitutional right, effectively making self-defense a luxury available only to the wealthy while disenfranchising working-class Oregonians. ?I am particularly concerned by the broad discretion granted to law enforcement. At a time of significant public distrust, HB 4145 asks us to rely on the subjective judgment of local agencies to "permit" a constitutional right. This lacks any meaningful protection against implicit bias or discrimination based on race, sexuality, or political affiliation. Furthermore, the broad exemptions for law enforcement create a "two-tier" citizenship that is fundamentally unjust.

?We are our own first line of defense—especially minorities who are disproportionately affected by violence. This bill is a material expansion of government overreach that lacks the broad mandate of the people. Our representatives should protect the rights of all their constituents, not just the privileged few.