

To: Senate Committee on Rules
Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 4145

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4145, a bill that, despite its stated intention to address gun violence, fails to provide meaningful solutions while placing significant burdens on lawful gun owners.

Oregon already has numerous laws on the books intended to prevent violent crime, including statutes covering murder, assault, and menacing. These laws are clear, enforceable, and carry significant penalties, yet they have not stopped individuals with criminal intent from committing violent acts. Adding another gun-related law will not deter those who are already willing to violate existing laws; instead, it risks restricting or overburdening individuals who comply with the law and exercise their constitutional rights responsibly.

Additionally, the process by which HB 4145 advanced raises serious concerns. Witness accounts indicate that a recess was called during an active vote—an action that appears to contradict procedural rules. Furthermore, concerns have been raised that a committee member may have been pressured to change their vote during this recess. Such actions undermine confidence in the legislative process and violate the principle that committee proceedings must be transparent and follow established rules.

For these reasons, I urge the Senate Committee on Rules to reject HB 4145. The bill does not offer an effective strategy for reducing criminal violence, and it appears to have advanced through means inconsistent with proper legislative procedure.

Thank you for your attention and for your commitment to upholding both public safety and the integrity of Oregon's legislative process.

Respectfully,
Richard Heuchert
Silverton, Oregon
rickheuchert@gmail.com