Submitter: Justin Bennett

On Behalf Of: All Oregonians

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Justin Bennett, and I am a resident of Clackamas County. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB 4145.

I believe this bill places additional restrictions on law-abiding citizens while doing little to deter individuals who already ignore existing laws. Criminals do not comply with firearm regulations. As a result, measures like HB 4145 primarily burden responsible Oregonians who use firearms for lawful purposes such as hunting, sport shooting, and self-defense.

I am particularly concerned about the amendment related to law enforcement exemptions. If this bill restricts magazine capacity or access to certain firearms for ordinary citizens but allows law enforcement officers to possess those same items when they are off duty, it creates a two-tiered system of rights. If standard capacity magazines are considered necessary for the safety of law enforcement professionals, then that same reasoning should apply to responsible citizens who may need to defend themselves and their families. Conversely, if the state determines those items are too dangerous for the public, that standard should apply equally when an officer is acting as a private citizen outside of official duties. Laws should apply equally and consistently.

I am also concerned about the financial burden this bill would impose. Increased licensing fees and additional regulatory requirements disproportionately impact working families and lower income Oregonians. Constitutional rights should not become dependent on one's ability to pay escalating government fees.

Another serious concern is the creation of a database of firearm owners. Oregon law has long restricted the establishment of a registry of firearms or firearm owners. Creating or expanding a centralized database raises serious privacy concerns and appears inconsistent with existing statutory protections.

Additionally, the language limiting court challenges related to this bill and Oregon Ballot Measure 114 is deeply troubling. Attempting to restrict where or how Oregonians may challenge legislation in court undermines the principle of judicial review and due process guaranteed under the Oregon Constitution.

I would also respectfully ask why the legislature is attempting to modify or expand

upon Measure 114 while it remains under review before the Oregon Court of Appeals. When a voter approved measure is still being actively litigated, it raises serious questions about timing and process to move forward with related statutory changes. Proceeding in this manner risks creating confusion, duplicative litigation, and further uncertainty for law-abiding citizens, law enforcement, and the courts. It would seem more prudent to allow the judicial process to conclude before making additional substantive changes in this policy area.

I was also troubled by reports regarding the interaction between Rep. Jason Kropf and Rep. Thuy Tran during discussion of this legislation. Reports that a member of this body felt intimidated during debate should concern every Oregonian. Healthy democratic governance depends on open and respectful debate. When elected officials feel pressured or discouraged from asking questions, it weakens public trust in the legislative process.

At its core, this issue is about equal rights and equal treatment under the law. If something is deemed too dangerous for citizens, it should be too dangerous for any individual acting as a private citizen. If something is necessary for safety, then that necessity does not disappear based on employment status. The Oregon Constitution does not create separate classes of rights for different professions. I respectfully ask this body to uphold the principle that constitutional protections apply equally to all Oregonians.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 4145.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justin Bennett