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

As a fourth-generation Oregonian, a farmer by heritage, and a mother of three children in the North Clackamas School District, I support HB 4145 because I believe deeply in protecting both our communities and our children.

My family's history in Oregon is rooted in land, responsibility, and care for neighbors. Generations before me understood that rights come with obligations — to steward what we've been given and to keep one another safe. That value has shaped how I show up as a parent today.

I am also the mother of elementary-aged children who have already experienced the fear of gun violence in their classrooms. In third grade and again in fifth grade, my children were threatened by peers referencing guns and school shootings. These were not distant headlines or hypothetical scenarios — they were incidents that reached directly into their learning environments and sense of safety.

When a child comes home from elementary school talking about lockdown drills and threats instead of recess and reading, something in our social contract has fractured. No parent should have to explain to an eight-year-old why someone would bring a gun to school or threaten to do so. Yet in Oregon today, many of us are having those conversations far too early.

Supporting HB 4145 is not about politics for me. It is about prevention, responsibility, and community safety — values that resonate strongly in both rural and urban Oregon. As someone raised in a culture that respected firearms for their purpose while also respecting the gravity of their harm, I believe reasonable safeguards are consistent with responsible ownership.

Our laws should reflect what parents and communities already know: access to lethal weapons during moments of anger, crisis, or impulsivity dramatically increases the risk of tragedy. Children and adolescents do not have fully developed impulse control or risk assessment. When firearms are accessible in those moments, outcomes become irreversible.

I work professionally with families navigating trauma and loss, and I have seen how quickly a single event can alter the trajectory of a child, a family, and a community. Prevention is not theoretical to me — it is the difference between healing and devastation.

HB 4145 represents a commitment to upstream safety. It acknowledges that responsible adults can support measures that reduce the likelihood of harm while still honoring lawful ownership. It recognizes that children deserve environments where learning is not overshadowed by fear. And it affirms that Oregon can lead with balanced, community-centered solutions.

As a fourth-generation Oregon mother, I want my children's school memories to be shaped by curiosity, friendship, and growth — not by threats and drills. Supporting HB 4145 is one way we can move closer to that reality.

I urge you to support HB 4145 in service of Oregon's children, families, and shared future.