

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

?I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4145. This bill does not simply "fix" Measure 114; it creates a two-tiered system of citizenship and grants law enforcement unprecedented, subjective power over a fundamental constitutional right.

?My opposition is centered on these critical flaws:

?Unequal Application of the Law (Law Enforcement Exemptions): HB 4145 carves out broad exemptions for active and retired law enforcement officers, allowing them to bypass permit requirements and magazine capacity limits even when off-duty or in a private, recreational capacity. If these regulations are truly a matter of "public safety," they should apply to everyone. Creating a privileged class of citizens who are exempt from the very laws they enforce is fundamentally un-American.

?Subjective Denial Standards: The bill allows permit agents (law enforcement) to deny a permit if they conclude an applicant is "reasonably likely" to be a danger to themselves or others. This is a purely subjective standard with no clear guidelines or objective criteria. This "may-issue" style discretion invites bias—whether based on political views, social media activity, or personal prejudice—and effectively turns a right into a temporary privilege granted at the whim of the state.

?Unchecked Discretion: Without strict, objective guidelines, Oregonians are left with no protection against arbitrary denials. This bill essentially tells law enforcement they can decide who is "fit" to exercise their rights without a criminal conviction or due process.

?I urge the Senate Committee to reject HB 4145 and the "pay-to-play," subjective system it attempts to codify.