

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

Senate Committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on HB 4145. I support HB 4145, and I urge legislators' support of it as well. This bill provides technical fixes to Ballot Measure 114 which was passed by a majority of Oregon voters in November 2022. The technical fixes will allow law-enforcement to efficiently process permits.

Ballot Measure 114 was a landmark victory reflecting the will of Oregon voters to keep their communities safe from gun violence. The law provides three important advancements for public safety – it requires every person to get a permit before purchasing a gun, it prohibits large capacity magazines, and it closes the catastrophic Charleston loophole.

States laws that require background checks at the point of sale and/or as part of a permit to purchase are associated with significantly reduced rates of firearm homicide, firearm suicide, and firearm trafficking. Currently individuals prohibited from buying a gun are able to obtain them anyway in Oregon through straw purchasing and gun trafficking. "Permit to purchase" has been shown to be a highly effective and life-saving firearm policy that prevents such individuals from obtaining firearms illegally.

I was recently in Iceland and was talking to the mother of a local [Icelandic] teen who had just been given the opportunity through his school to spend a semester in a foreign country on an academic exchange program. When I asked where the boy was going to go for his semester abroad, the mom said "I'm not sure yet, but I know it won't be the US." Surprised, I asked her why. She said "because of the gun danger."

We here in Oregon have an opportunity right now to make a significant advancement against gun violence in our state. Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 114 in 2022 to make our communities more safe from gun violence. We absolutely need to finish the job on this Measure before one more life is lost.

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