

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

I had hoped to testify over video conference during the hearing, however I apologize that I was unable to appear at the scheduled time.

I imagine the common talking points in opposition to this bill have been well covered. I am generally in agreement with those reasons for opposing, but will share more personal thoughts. Thank you for your service to the public and for taking the time to review the testimony related to this bill.

Ballot initiatives are an important instrument of our state's democracy, but carry the risk of being deeply flawed as their contents are generally not drafted by experienced lawmakers. They often lack accountability measures, realistic timelines, thorough funding provisions, engagement of ancillary groups and stakeholders, etc... I encourage you to consider the recent examples of ballot measures, and you will undoubtedly find that there's "holes" in them. Measure 114 is a profound example of this.

With years passed while in court battle, there is still no clear path that Measure 114 would ever be able to be implemented if it survives the courts. This bill does very little to address the key issues... this bill is plugging a hole in a sunken ship.

With the drama that has already taken place in the house, this bill is an unfortunate microcosm of Oregon politics. At its heart this bill isn't about public safety. It isn't about gun violence. You yourselves could not agree to cooperate with the pursuit of violent felons who are in our country illegally (SB1594A), which should have been automatic if we were interested in protecting our communities. We have an unaddressed crisis of drug addiction in our cities and towns, and proliferation all of the social ills and violence that accompany addiction. Yet this is allowed to continue year after year.

At its heart, this bill is nothing more than a pandering to special interest. There's no reason to fill the holes in this sunken ship, except to placate the special interest groups that might perhaps feel inclined to donate to your upcoming campaign.

I urge you to remember who your constituents are, and to consider the interests of them and the constitution of our State. Abandon the broken ship of politics by special interest. Many of the majority party in this state are quite secure in their seat, and don't need to play this game. I urge you to not be beholden to these interests or the "bullying" of your own party that has been rumored for years but was on display in the House over this very bill. Be honest with yourselves about this bill and Measure 114.

Your duty is to carry the interests of Oregonians, and not to champion a flawed and misleading mess of a ballot measure to placate special interest groups. Your duty is to terminate HB 4145, and refocus on effective ways to address the numerous real issues before our State.

Thank you again for your time and service to our State.

-Jason Schuster
Beaverton, OR