



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 26, 2026

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4145 A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I struggled with this vote. In Committee, I expressed concerns with this bill, but I appreciated its intent. I felt a responsibility to my colleagues who wanted to see this bill move through the full legislative process and to my constituents who voted overwhelmingly for Measure 114. I did not want to be the reason this bill could not be voted on by the entire body. In the days leading up to this Work Session, I spoke with people on all sides of this debate. In the week and a half that followed I continued to have engaged and thoughtful discussions with advocates and community members.

At a time when people do not feel safe in their homes, taking their kids to school, or on the streets of their community, I am increasingly aware of the need for marginalized folks to have access to self-protection. When Measure 114 was under consideration on the ballot, I heard consistent concerns from people of historically marginalized identities that having to request permission from law enforcement to buy a firearm would lead to disenfranchisement of communities that are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement. Additionally, I heard concerns that the cost of the permitting process would disproportionately impact low-income folks. These concerns have not been alleviated by HB 4145 A.

Increased fees and very little or inaccessible recourse for folks who have had their permit denied on the grounds of prejudice or bias leads me to believe that in practice, this law will





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only apply to low income or other marginalized people — people who most need to be able to defend themselves and their families. As the saying goes, “If the penalty for a crime is a fine, then that law only exists for the lower class.” I believe this applies to laws wherein the primary barrier to access one’s constitutional right is a fee. The fees in HB 4145 A are more than double what voters approved in Measure 114. There were many people for whom the fees were a deciding factor in their vote. In today’s economy, I do not think Measure 114 would have passed had the fees been as high as HB 4145 A makes them.

The reality is that Federal overreach targeting marginalized people has ramped up dramatically since Measure 114’s passage in 2022. While statute already governs the relationship Oregon must have with the federal government to complete background checks, the additional concerns of potentially handing the government a registry of firearm owners with their biometric data seems especially problematic given our current reality.

I believe the studies that say permit to purchase laws save lives. However, I am not willing to sell disenfranchised people, people who have historically been victims of policing, not benefactors of its protection, down the river particularly as fascism continues to gain momentum in this country. We must meaningfully engage with the systemic issues that lead to gun violence, and address them, not compound them with our lawmaking.

For these reasons, I am a “nay” on House Bill 4145 A.

Sincerely,

State Representative Farrah Chaichi

