



March 27, 2023

Senator Prozanski,

We are writing to you today as caucus chairs within the Democratic Party of Oregon to address concerns we have with the implementation of Measure 114. We understand that there are myriad voices, all with a stake in the outcome of this process, and many wishing to see the measure relegated to the trash. We, however, believe that this is a vital moment where we can lean in to imagine together what is possible versus tweaking the status quo.

Given your schedule, you're likely not aware of our work around this issue, but for more than a year, we have worked in a coalition between our caucuses and others who are deeply committed to saving lives. Included were several House members and one of them filed a bill that was modeled after a solution we proposed. Many who worked with us have been personally touched by the tragedy of gun violence, and, together, we intend to save the lives of as many of our fellow Oregonians as possible, regardless of their political ideology. This is about more than left and right. It is about what we can do to implement the will of the people while balancing the right to bear arms and public safety. We affirm that we can do both.

Because we believe in re-imagining what is possible, the proposal we settled on was to move the permit to purchase system to the state DMV (though we'd like to add to that the OSP offices as well), to make it fully accessible and fair, while reducing direct interactions with and financial/staff burden on police. The DMV already issues permits (licenses) statewide, and would reduce the contact between individuals and police. This move would save the State at least \$60M in the first year alone and alleviate the burden on small county sheriff's offices, many of whom have said they either cannot or will not be able to process these kinds of permits. We have attached the one-page description of this bill for your review.

We believe that a move of this kind is fair, just, and Constitutionally sound. Allowing applicants to file paperwork electronically and removing the burden of permitting from local and county departments means that rural, LGBTQIA+, and BIPOC applicants will be safer when accessing their right to keep and bear arms. This proposal will also make it easier for everyday Oregonians to maintain compliance. If someone moves from Multnomah County to Douglas County, they won't need to

notify the DMV and both county sheriffs' offices. Instead, they could notify the DMV alone (and update their voter registration at the same time!) and maintain a valid permit the whole time. Finally, this proposal adds safe storage and suicide prevention to the required training, giving hundreds of thousands of Oregonians like us the education to notice the "red flags" of suicidal ideation in themselves and others. Additionally, we believe these changes represent major improvements to the original measure, improves resilience against Court challenges, and could be a model for other states to follow.

We are sure you understand that this is an issue of critical urgency. It cannot wait for another session or time. Acting now is likely to prevent the measure from being ultimately stricken by the courts, with the benefit to Oregonians being both increased safety AND the recognition that their rights to firearms and self defense are valuable and protected in Oregon. Of course, as caucus chairs, we come together to serve and engage in the shared struggle of becoming a more perfect union. We want to see you incorporate these ideas into your proposed solution, and would be happy to discuss the matter further or provide any assistance you may need.

With gratitude and hope,

*Rosa Colquitt, PhD*

Chair, Democratic Party of Oregon

Chair, Black Caucus

Member, Gun Owners Caucus

*Kim Schmith*

Chair, Rural Caucus

Member, Gun Owners Caucus

*Michael Smith*

Chair, Gun Owners Caucus



*from the desk of*  
**Representative Farrah Chaichi**  
Proudly Serving House District 35

## **Regarding House Bill 3511**

### **Background**

On November 8, 2022, Oregon voters passed Measure 114 into law. This measure creates a permit to purchase system within the state. Almost immediately, the measure was enjoined by the Courts. We have an opportunity to make the program workable for the State and its residents in a way that balances the rights and responsibilities of gun ownership and valid public concerns around gun safety.

HB 3511 will:

### **Move Permitting System to the DMV**

This bill would move the permitting system from 36 individual county sheriffs offices to the Department of Transportation, with a requirement to make the application process available entirely online. This will allow the public to access the permitting system through the same system used to manage their licenses and other registrations. Further, the DMV already shares data with the Oregon State Police (OSP), whether that be for identification only or for drivers licensing. The DMV would transmit the application data to the Oregon State Police (OSP) for the background check and approval, and then provide a notice to the applicant of the decision.

### **Standardize the Permitting Process**

A permitting system that uses 36 different forms and processes depending on your county just doesn't make sense for Oregon. HB 3511 would standardize the process for every applicant across the state and eliminate unnecessary information from being collected, retained or used inappropriately.

### **Delay Implementation**

Part of the current court objection to Measure 114 is that the State has not been prepared to implement the law. This bill would delay implementation until January 1, 2025 to provide time for the relevant agencies to build out necessary systems and policies.

### **Add Safe Storage and Suicide Prevention Training**

Because training requirements for suicide prevention and safe storage are already readily available through the Oregon State Shooting Association (OSSA) and National Rifle Association (NRA), the expectation

is that gun owners and prospective buyers will not be unduly burdened by the addition of these training requirements. Responsible gun owners don't want to see their loved ones and acquaintances die by suicide, and this training will make the more than 300,000 purchasers of guns here in Oregon more prepared to notice signs of suicidality in themselves and others and have information about where and how to seek help.

### **Streamline Background Check Processes**

Under the federal Brady Law, states have two choices: to set up an appropriate permitting system or require that a NICS background check is performed before every firearm sale. Oregon has had an increasing number of background checks being performed annually, which has impacted state employment offers, childcare worker and teacher licensure, and, of course, firearm sales. Moving to a permitting system, as modified by HB 3511, makes it possible for purchasers to skip the NICS check, saving money and time, and streamlining the background check process. An annual check will also flag those whose right to bear arms has been restricted through a felony conviction for cancellation of their previously issued permit.

### **Add an Equity Analysis**

One of the claims made against Measure 114 was that it had the potential for abuse and would be hard for some communities to access. An equity analysis will help a future Legislature to determine what impact the law is making on Oregonians and gun sales, allowing for better future decision making.

*For questions and concerns, please contact  
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