

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 305, which proposes to prohibit the possession of 30 round ammunition magazines without providing a grandfather clause for current lawful owners. As a responsible firearm owner who legally purchased my magazines, I believe HB 305 is both unjust and infringes upon my 2nd amendment constitutional rights.

In 2022, Oregon voters narrowly approved Measure 114, which introduced stricter firearm regulations, including a ban on the sale, transfer, and importation of magazines holding more than 10 rounds. Importantly, Measure 114 included a grandfather clause that allowed existing owners to retain possession of their high-capacity magazines, provided they were used only on private property, at shooting ranges, or during hunting activities.

HB 305, however, seeks to eliminate this protection for lawful owners by criminalizing the continued possession of these magazines without any provision for those purchased legally before the bill's enactment. This retroactive approach unfairly penalizes responsible firearm owners and raises significant constitutional concerns as well as lost and unrecoverable monetary expense.

The Oregon Court of Appeals recently upheld Measure 114, affirming its constitutionality under the state constitution. However, the court's decision did not address the potential issues arising from retroactively criminalizing previously lawful behavior, as HB 305 proposes.

I urge you to consider the following points:

1. **Respect for Law-Abiding Citizens:** HB 305 would turn responsible firearm owners into criminals overnight for possessing items they legally acquired. This undermines trust in the legislative process and disrespects citizens who have complied with existing laws.

2. **Constitutional Rights:** The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms. While regulations are permissible, outright bans on items previously deemed legal, without compensation or grandfathering, may constitute an overreach and invite legal challenges.

3. **Effectiveness and Enforcement:** There is limited evidence to suggest that banning high-capacity magazines from law-abiding citizens will significantly reduce firearm violence. Criminals, by definition, are unlikely to adhere to such bans, rendering the law ineffective and placing undue burdens on responsible firearm owners.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you oppose HB 305 in its current form. If the goal is to enhance public safety, I encourage the legislature to focus on measures that address the root causes of violence and crime without infringing upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

