

Submitter: Anthony Fields
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 3075, and respectfully urge you to vote NO on any version of this bill due to its potential for discriminatory enforcement, disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities, and serious constitutional concerns. This bill risks furthering systemic inequities and creating barriers to the rights of law-abiding Oregonians, particularly people of color and lower-income individuals.

1. HB 3075 Could Enable Racial and Economic Discrimination in Firearm Permitting

The bill gives law enforcement broad discretion to determine who is “likely to be a danger to themselves or others” when deciding whether to approve a firearm purchase permit.

Studies show that discretionary gun permitting systems disproportionately impact Black, Latino, and lower-income applicants, even when they meet all legal requirements.

In states with similar laws, marginalized communities have been denied permits at higher rates than white applicants, despite having no disqualifying records.

Without proper safeguards, HB 3075 risks replicating this pattern of racial and socioeconomic bias, reinforcing systemic inequities in law enforcement decision-making.

2. HB 3075 Imposes Financial Barriers That Disproportionately Harm Low-Income Oregonians

The bill increases permit fees to \$150 for an initial permit and \$110 for renewal, in addition to background check and mandatory training costs.

These fees are a direct financial barrier to constitutional rights, much like the poll taxes that were historically used to suppress voting rights.

Wealthier individuals will still have access to firearms, while lower-income residents—especially those in historically marginalized communities—will be effectively priced out.

Further, because this bill disproportionately impacts lower-income and minority individuals due to increased fees and discretionary permitting, it may violate the Fourteenth

Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause if shown to result in systemic bias.

Progressive policies should not reinforce economic inequality in access to constitutional rights.

3. Retroactive Punishment Violates the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions

HB 3075 criminalizes the possession of large-capacity magazines (LCMs) that

were legally purchased between December 8, 2022, and the bill's passage.

The U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 10) and the Oregon Constitution (Article I, Section 21) both prohibit retroactive punishment, meaning that individuals who followed the law

at the time of purchase could suddenly be made criminals.

This is fundamentally unfair and when challenged, it will inevitably be struck down.

4. HB 3075 Will Lead to Costly Legal Challenges and Wasted Taxpayer Dollars

When challenged in court, HB 3075 is likely to be overturned, requiring the state to waste taxpayer money defending an unconstitutional law.

The courts have already struck down similar laws that retroactively criminalized previously legal firearm ownership.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 3075. Instead of passing a discriminatory, unconstitutional law that will be challenged in court, let's focus on policies that actually promote equity and public safety without punishing marginalized communities.

Respectfully submitted,

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