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House Judiciary Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 3075 – A Direct Violation of Constitutional Rights & Discriminatory Impacts

Dear Chair Jason Kropf, Vice-Chair Willy Chotzen, Vice-Chair Kim Wallan, and Members Tom Andersen, Farrah Chaichi, Rick Lewis, Kevin Mannix, and Thuy Tran,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3075, a misguided piece of legislation that targets law-abiding gun owners while failing to address the real issue of criminals obtaining and using firearms illegally. This bill tramples on the Second Amendment rights of responsible citizens, disproportionately impacts BIPOC and low-income communities, and does nothing to curb the rising gun violence committed by those who have no regard for the law.

HB 3075 Undermines Constitutional Rights

The **Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** states:

"A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

This right has been reaffirmed by the **U.S. Supreme Court**:

- **District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)** – The Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own a firearm for self-defense, not just for militia service.
- **McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)** – The ruling applied the Second Amendment to state and local governments, reinforcing that states cannot impose excessive restrictions on firearm ownership.

The rights in the U.S. Constitution weren't just thrown together—they were carefully thought out and put in order for a reason. As an elected official, it is your duty—regardless of party—to uphold the Constitution, not based on your personal interpretation but on the actual reading of the law. Ever wonder why? The First Amendment comes first because freedom of speech is one of the most fundamental rights we have. And right after that? The Second Amendment—the right to bear arms. That wasn't by accident. The Founding Fathers knew that protecting free speech and the right to defend yourself were crucial to a free society.

But today, we see laws that seem more focused on restricting law-abiding citizens rather than stopping criminals. Do you really think someone intent on breaking the law is going to stop and say, ***"Wait, I can't have a 17-round magazine"***? Of course not. The tragic reality is that these laws do little to deter criminals—they only make it harder for responsible people to protect themselves.

I know this firsthand. The person who sold my son the fentanyl that killed him was later caught with Glock 17 and a 31-round magazine. Did any gun law stop him? No. He didn't care about the law in the first place. So how does limiting magazine capacity or getting a permit to purchase make anyone safer? It doesn't, because criminals do not care about laws. It just leaves law-abiding people at a disadvantage while criminals continue to ignore the rules.

Instead of passing feel-good laws that don't actually stop crime, lawmakers should be focusing on real solutions—like harsher penalties for fentanyl dealers and stronger enforcement against the people who are actually putting our communities at risk.

The Rising Threat of Illegal Gun Possession Among Teens and Convicted Felons – Proof That HB 3075 Won't Work

Federal data shows that teen firearm possession in Oregon is skyrocketing. In the past five years, the number of guns seized from teenagers in criminal investigations has more than doubled. These cases prove that minors and criminals are obtaining firearms illegally despite existing laws. Yet, instead of cracking down on illegal gun trafficking and violent offenders, HB 3075 puts up more roadblocks for responsible gun owners who are following the law while doing nothing to deter criminals who will ignore these restrictions.

- **March 13, 2025 – Gresham Shooting:** *A 16-year-old suspect, Camerino Vides, illegally obtained a firearm and fatally shot 17-year-old Jorge Ovidio Mateo Vasquez at Vance Park. The suspect was already prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm under existing law, yet he still obtained a gun and committed this heinous act.*
- **February 2025:** *Two teenagers were arrested in a Northeast Portland hotel parking lot with three loaded firearms.*
- **January 2025:** *A teenager was arrested outside a Portland restaurant carrying a loaded rifle.*
- **Portland Shooting Incident (January 2025):** *Two teenagers were arrested and charged with murder and robbery after allegedly shooting a man who attempted to stop them from robbing a store.*
- **December 2024:** *In Milwaukie, a teenager attempting to steal a car was found with a loaded gun.*
- **February 27, 2025 – Salem Incident:** *Four teenage boys, aged 15 to 17, and a 19-year-old woman were arrested after allegedly threatening a person with a firearm in the Northgate neighborhood. Salem police seized four guns, including a loaded short-barreled rifle, and discovered seven pounds of marijuana during their investigation.*
- **February 6, 2024 – Portland Incident:** *An 18-year-old male was arrested following a tactical operation in response to a series of shootings in the Portsmouth neighborhood.*

Convicted Felons Caught with Firearms Despite Existing Laws

While HB 3075 unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners, it does nothing to stop convicted felons—who are already prohibited from owning firearms—from obtaining and using them in violent crimes:

- **North Portland Shooting (May 2024):** A convicted felon was arrested after firing into a crowd in North Portland. The individual, prohibited from possessing firearms due to prior convictions, faced multiple charges, including unlawful use of a weapon and felon in possession of a firearm.
- **Coos County Traffic Stop (October 2024):** Deputies from the Coos County Sheriff's Office arrested two convicted felons during a traffic stop after discovering firearms and narcotics in their vehicle.
- **Portland Drug Bust (October 2024):** Portland police arrested a couple after finding a bag labeled "Definitely Not a Bag full of Drugs" containing drugs during a traffic stop. The search also revealed a loaded .357 handgun, methamphetamine, and cash.
- **Negasi Zuberi Conviction (October 2024):** Negasi Zuberi was convicted for kidnapping, transporting a victim for criminal sexual activity, and illegally possessing firearms and ammunition as a convicted felon. His criminal activities spanned multiple states, including Oregon.

Stricter Gun Laws Don't Reduce Crime — They Just Burden the Law-Abiding

Gun laws vary widely across the U.S., yet there is no clear evidence that stricter regulations actually reduce crime. Some states with tight gun laws do have lower firearm-related deaths, but others—like Chicago and Washington, D.C.—have some of the toughest restrictions yet still suffer from rampant gun violence due to illegal trafficking from neighboring states. HB 3075 does nothing to address this issue but instead makes it harder for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves.

Further research from the U.S. Department of Justice reveals that 90% of criminals do not get their guns from legal retail sources. Instead, they acquire them through:

- 43% from street/underground markets
- 25% from straw purchases or gifts
- 6% through theft

That means additional permitting and magazine restrictions *only affect responsible gun owners* while having little to no impact on criminals' access to firearms. Even large-scale gun bans, like the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, had "no discernible impact" on overall gun crime, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

HB 3075 Hurts Marginalized Communities the Most

Gun control laws have historically been used to disarm vulnerable communities. *The burdens of additional fees, travel, and required training fall hardest on low-income families, rural residents, and communities of color.* A coalition of shooting range owners has already warned that HB 3075 will "hinder or block our marginalized populations from obtaining firearms to protect themselves and their families."

HB 3075 also creates a Catch-22 for first-time gun buyers. *To get a permit, a person must complete live-fire training. But under Oregon law, you cannot legally obtain a firearm to train with unless you already have a permit. This effectively makes it impossible for new, responsible gun owners to enter the process.*

Conclusion: Stand for the Rights of Law-Abiding Oregonians

HB 3075 is not about safety—it's about government overreach that punishes responsible citizens. It places *unnecessary burdens* on law-abiding Oregonians while doing nothing to stop the real issue: criminals who already ignore existing gun laws. Instead of protecting our communities, this legislation makes it harder for responsible people to defend themselves and their families.

This is not a partisan issue—this is about fairness, rights, and public safety. The tragedies in Gresham, Salem, and Portland make one thing clear: *violent criminals are the problem, not law-abiding gun owners*. Yet, HB 3075 focuses on restricting those who follow the law rather than ensuring real consequences for those who don't.

I call on all legislators regardless of party affiliation to reject HB 3075 in its entirety. As an elected official it is your duty to uphold the constitution as it reads not as you interpret it. Let's focus on holding criminals accountable, enforcing the laws already on the books, and protecting the rights of responsible Oregonians. Public safety should never come at the expense of constitutional freedoms.

Sincerely,

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