

Submitter: Josh Turner  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 3075, a measure that modifies the firearm permitting provisions of Ballot Measure 114 (2022). While presented as a means to enhance public safety, this legislation instead imposes undue burdens on law-abiding citizens, effectively penalizing their exercise of a constitutional right, while doing little to deter criminal behavior. I urge you to consider the practical consequences of this bill and reject it in favor of policies that target actual crime without infringing on the freedoms of Oregonians.

HB 3075 expands the permitting process for firearm transfers, increases fees from \$65 to \$150, extends the waiting period for approval from 30 to 60 days, and imposes stricter eligibility requirements, including mandatory safety courses and background checks. These changes create significant obstacles for law-abiding citizens seeking to purchase firearms for self-defense, hunting, or sport. For many Oregonians—particularly those in rural areas or with limited financial resources—the doubled fees and extended delays represent a prohibitive barrier. A single parent working multiple jobs, for instance, may struggle to afford the \$150 fee or take time off to complete a required course, leaving them defenseless against potential threats. This legislation effectively punishes those who follow the law by making compliance more costly and time-consuming.

Meanwhile, HB 3075 offers no meaningful deterrent to criminals, who, by definition, do not adhere to legal processes. Individuals intent on committing gun-related crimes are unlikely to submit to background checks, pay fees, or wait 60 days for approval. Historical data consistently shows that the vast majority of firearms used in crimes are obtained illegally—through theft, straw purchases, or the black market—bypassing lawful channels entirely. By focusing on regulating legal transactions, HB 3075 does nothing to address these illicit pathways. Instead, it leaves criminals free to operate outside the system, potentially emboldened by the knowledge that law-abiding citizens are disarmed or delayed in their ability to protect themselves.

The bill's supporters may argue that these measures reduce gun violence, but this claim overlooks a critical flaw: criminals do not comply with permitting laws, while law-abiding citizens do. Extending the waiting period to 60 days, for example, could leave a domestic violence survivor unable to quickly obtain a firearm for self-defense, while her abuser—already operating outside the law—faces no such restriction. Similarly, the increased fees and training requirements disproportionately affect low-

income individuals, who may need protection the most but lack the resources to navigate this bureaucratic maze. In this way, HB 3075 not only fails to curb criminal behavior but may inadvertently benefit those who exploit the unarmed or vulnerable.

Furthermore, this legislation appears to circumvent the ongoing legal challenges to Measure 114, undermining the judicial process and the will of Oregon voters who have questioned its constitutionality. By doubling down on a flawed framework, HB 3075 risks turning law-abiding citizens into unintentional felons—such as those who fail to meet a new eligibility standard through no fault of their own—while letting actual criminals off the hook. This is not justice; it is a misallocation of accountability that punishes the innocent and ignores the guilty.

I implore the Committee to reject HB 3075 and instead pursue solutions that directly address criminal activity—such as stricter enforcement of existing laws against illegal firearm possession or trafficking—without eroding the rights of law-abiding Oregonians. Public safety is a shared goal, but it cannot come at the expense of fairness, freedom, or common sense. This bill fails that test.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Josh Turner