

Submitter: Brian Johnston
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3075-1, which amends Oregon's firearm laws by imposing restrictions on large-capacity magazines, unfinished frames or receivers, and firearm transfers. As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill infringes on constitutional rights, places undue burdens on law-abiding Oregonians, and fails to effectively address the issue of gun violence. I urge you to reject this legislation and consider alternative approaches that respect individual freedoms while enhancing public safety.

The Second Amendment guarantees my right to keep and bear arms, a protection upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Heller* (2008) and *Bruen* (2022). HB 3075-1's ban on magazines holding more than 10 rounds and its regulation of unfinished frames or receivers—components not even classified as firearms under federal law—unjustly restricts this right. The retroactive ban on large-capacity magazines, effective December 8, 2022, turns legally owned property into contraband, forcing owners to destroy or surrender it or face criminal penalties. This is an overreach that punishes lawful behavior without historical justification, as required by *Bruen*.

Beyond constitutional concerns, the bill's practical effects are troubling. The affirmative defense provisions for magazine possession (ORS 166.355(4)) limit use to specific locations—such as private property or ranges—while requiring locked storage during transport. These rules are overly restrictive and impractical, especially for rural residents like myself who rely on firearms for self-defense or recreation. The permit-to-purchase requirement, effective July 1, 2026 (ORS 166.412), adds bureaucratic hurdles and costs, delaying access to a fundamental right already safeguarded by existing background checks.

Most importantly, HB 3075-1 lacks evidence of effectiveness. Research, including from the RAND Corporation, shows no conclusive link between magazine capacity limits and reduced violent crime. Criminals, who ignore laws by nature, will not comply with these restrictions, while law-abiding citizens bear the burden. Oregon should instead focus on enforcing current laws, improving mental health resources, and targeting illegal firearm trafficking—measures more likely to address violence without penalizing the innocent.

The emergency clause (Section 20) claims an urgent need for this bill, yet delays key provisions until 2026. This contradiction undermines its urgency and suggests political posturing over genuine safety concerns. Oregonians deserve better than symbolic laws that erode rights without delivering results.

I respectfully request that you vote against HB 3075-1 and prioritize solutions that uphold our constitutional freedoms while tackling the real causes of crime. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for representing the interests of your constituents.