

Submitter: Shane Hartley  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

I write in vehement opposition to House Bill 3075 (2025), a measure that assaults the inalienable rights and sacred liberties of every Oregonian. Under the flimsy pretext of public safety, this bill desecrates the very foundation of our freedom—the right to keep and bear arms, enshrined in the Second Amendment and Oregon’s Constitution, Article I, Section 27. I implore you to reject this egregious overreach and stand as guardians of our God-given liberties, not as architects of their destruction.

HB 3075 threatens to extinguish the flame of liberty by transforming a fundamental right into a revocable privilege. By amending Ballot Measure 114’s permitting framework, it erects insidious barriers—discretionary approvals, exorbitant fees, and burdensome training—that choke the life from our constitutional protections. The right to bear arms is not a favor bestowed by bureaucrats; it is an inalienable birthright, etched into the soul of our nation as a bulwark against tyranny and a testament to individual sovereignty. History screams warnings: when one liberty falls, others follow like dominoes. To surrender this right under the hollow guise of safety is to invite the chains of oppression upon us all.

Consider the chilling specter of discriminatory enforcement. Discretionary permitting systems, as HB 3075 seems to embolden, have a dark history of denying rights to the vulnerable—minorities, the poor, and rural folk. The Urban Institute’s 2018 study on Massachusetts revealed such systems disproportionately reject those least able to fight back. This bill risks turning self-defense into a privilege for the elite, leaving the downtrodden defenseless. Is this the equality our founders bled for? No—it is a betrayal of liberty, a mockery of justice.

Financial barriers strike another blow at freedom’s heart. Increased fees, costly training, and renewals could price out countless Oregonians—especially working families—making the right to protect one’s life a luxury for the wealthy. The Supreme Court’s *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010) ruling declared the Second Amendment fundamental. To burden it with costs is to levy a tax on liberty itself, an abomination that spits on the principle that rights are not for sale.

HB 3075 also reeks of subterfuge, a sly attempt to skirt judicial scrutiny of Ballot Measure 114’s flaws. If courts have questioned the original law, piling on new restrictions feels like a backdoor assault on accountability. Liberty demands transparency, not legislative games that dodge the checks preserving our freedoms.

Proponents may claim safety justifies this erosion, but evidence begs to differ.

RAND's 2020 analysis found no clear link between strict permitting and lower crime. What's undeniable is the cost to freedom: law-abiding citizens suffer while evil persists. As Benjamin Franklin warned, trading essential liberty for fleeting safety ensures we lose both. HB 3075 drags us down this treacherous path, punishing the innocent instead of confronting violence's roots.

I beseech you: reject HB 3075. Do not barter our inalienable rights for empty promises. Liberty is our birthright, our shield, our soul. Protect it, or history will judge you as the killers of freedom.

Sincerely,

Shane Hartley  
Coos Bay, Oregon