

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

Dear Oregon Legislative Assembly Members,

I stand firmly against House Bill 3075 (2025), a proposal that guts the sacred freedoms of Oregonians—particularly women and minorities—under the pretext of safety. This bill tramples the right to bear arms, a cornerstone of liberty affirmed by the Second Amendment and Oregon’s Constitution, Article I, Section 27. I urge you to halt this betrayal of our inalienable rights and safeguard the freedoms of those most in need.

HB 3075 jeopardizes the liberty of women and minorities by erecting a fortress of restrictions around a God-given right. By revising Ballot Measure 114’s permitting system, it introduces obstacles like discretionary gatekeeping, steep costs, and mandated courses that disproportionately harm the vulnerable. For a Latina single mother in a dangerous neighborhood or an Asian woman facing rising hate crimes, the right to self-defense is a lifeline, not a luxury to be rationed by bureaucrats. Denying them this protection under the banner of safety isn’t progress—it’s oppression dressed as law.

The bill’s potential for biased enforcement is a dagger to equal justice. Systems granting officials unchecked power to approve permits often exclude women and minorities, as seen in California’s documented history of racial disparities in concealed-carry approvals (Georgetown Law, 2019). Imagine a Black woman denied protection in a crime-ridden area, or a Native mother turned away while threats loom. HB 3075 could codify this unfairness, stripping liberty from those already fighting systemic inequities.

Economic hurdles worsen the blow for women and minorities. New fees or training requirements might be pocket change for some, but for a struggling immigrant mother or a woman escaping abuse, they’re a wall blocking survival. The Supreme Court’s Heller (2008) decision recognized self-defense as a core right. Charging for it—through fees or classes—creates a paywall around freedom, leaving the poorest women and minorities defenseless while the affluent arm up.

HB 3075 also seems to sidestep the legal challenges facing Ballot Measure 114, hinting at a disregard for due process that hits marginalized communities hardest. Women and minorities, often skeptical of institutional fairness, deserve laws that face scrutiny, not ones slipped through back channels. Freedom thrives on openness, not on shadows that deepen distrust.

Supporters might tout safety, yet data undermines their case. A 2021 Johns Hopkins study showed no definitive tie between tight permitting and reduced violence. But the harm to liberty is undeniable: a Vietnamese shopkeeper arming against looters or a trans woman guarding against hate shouldn't face penalties while predators roam free. True safety empowers the vulnerable, not disarms them.

I plead with you: stop HB 3075. Don't strip women and minorities of their birthright for a mirage of security. Their liberty—their very lives—depends on this right. Preserve it, or future generations will curse you as the ones who crushed their freedom underfoot.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hartley  
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