

Submitter: Nicholas Scalzone
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3075

Gun violence prevention is an important issue facing the US, and the state of Oregon right now. However, I believe this bill does far more harm than good, and will affect marginalized communities, primarily low income people, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community. This bill also does nothing to address the root causes of gun violence in Oregon. I am a registered Democrat, I live in Oregon because I feel the political climate here is an excellent match for my values, and I agree with almost all of the party's agenda. Therefore, please consider that this testimony is not coming from a partisan angle.

My primary concerns with this bill are:

1. This bill introduces the requirement of a firearm purchasing permit, and includes subjective criteria that allow the law enforcement officers to determine if they will grant the permit or not. By not specifying that the permit will be issued to citizens on a shall-issue basis, pending purely objective criteria such as a background check, this bill creates the opportunity for discrimination. This is likely to affect the marginalized communities mentioned previously, who are already more likely to be targeted and discriminated against by law enforcement, and create a barrier against these Americans exercising their constitutional rights.
2. This bill retroactively criminalizes anyone who acquired a magazine of capacity greater than 10 rounds after December 2022. These magazines have been legal and readily available in Oregon since the stay was placed on Measure 114, and many in the state have legally purchased such magazines in the time since that date.
3. The cost of the permit is discriminatory against lower income individuals in our state, and creates a system in which wealthier people have better access to constitutional rights, and the means of self defense. This is another case of how this bill is discriminatory to marginalized communities in Oregon.

We are facing an unprecedented assault on our constitutional rights from the current presidential administration. Oregonians do not need their constitutional right to access the tools they may need for self defense to be restricted, especially in a way that opens the door for discriminatory practices the way HB3075 does. In order to make meaningful progress on gun violence, and all violent crime, in this state and in this country, we need root cause solutions. The root causes of violent crime are overwhelmingly related to income inequality, and to lack of access to proper healthcare, including mental health care. I urge a "No" vote on this bill, and I urge the

Democratic party to shift the focus away from unpopular gun control measures, and toward more meaningful measures such as universal healthcare, increased education funding in underprivileged areas, and stronger social safety nets for all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nicholas Scalzone