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

I strongly oppose House Bill 3075 (HB 3075). This bill burdens responsible gun owners, expands unconstitutional government control, and fails to address the actual causes of firearm-related deaths in Oregon. Instead of restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens, lawmakers should focus on mental health resources and suicide prevention—which data clearly shows are the primary drivers of gun-related deaths.

1. The Firearm Permitting Process is Unconstitutional and Discriminatory

Oregon's firearm permitting system is a direct violation of the Second Amendment. The right to keep and bear arms is not subject to government approval or financial status. HB 3075 further entrenches an unconstitutional process by tripling the cost of permits, raising fees to \$150 for initial applications and \$110 for renewals.

These excessive costs disproportionately impact lower-income Oregonians, making it harder for them to exercise a fundamental right. No other constitutional right requires financial barriers to access. Just as we do not charge people to vote or speak freely, we should not be pricing people out of their Second Amendment rights.

2. Unconstitutional and Arbitrary Enforcement

HB 3075 expands law enforcement's unchecked discretion to determine whether an applicant is "suitable" for a firearm permit. The government has no authority to decide who is "suitable" to exercise a right. The Second Amendment is not a privilege to be granted or denied. Similar permitting systems in other states have resulted in racially biased enforcement, with Black and Latino applicants disproportionately denied despite meeting all legal requirements. This law invites the same abuse and discrimination while violating the Constitution.

3. Retroactively Criminalizing Law-Abiding Gun Owners

HB 3075 would turn responsible gun owners into criminals overnight simply for possessing magazines they legally purchased before the passage of Measure 114. Penalizing individuals retroactively for following the law at the time of purchase is unjust and unconstitutional. No government should have the power to criminalize past lawful behavior.

4. Emergency Clause – Blocking Public Input

HB 3075 includes an emergency clause, meaning it would take effect immediately and block Oregonians from challenging it through a referendum. If this bill is truly about public safety, it should withstand public scrutiny. Rushing it through without allowing voters a say is a blatant attempt to silence opposition.

5. The Real Issue: Suicide Prevention, Not Gun Restrictions

HB 3075 does not address the real driver of gun deaths in Oregon: suicide.

- 76% of firearm deaths in Oregon are suicides—not homicides or mass shootings.
- Restricting magazine capacities will not prevent suicides, which remain the leading cause of gun-related fatalities.
- Resources should be directed toward mental health support, suicide prevention programs, and crisis intervention services—not restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Meanwhile, 601 people died in motor vehicle accidents in Oregon in 2022—a greater public safety concern. Yet, there is no comparable push for extreme restrictions on vehicle ownership. If the goal is saving lives, mental health solutions would be far more effective than restricting firearm access.

Conclusion – HB 3075 Should Be Rejected

HB 3075 does not improve public safety. Instead, it expands an unconstitutional permitting system, imposes excessive costs that price out lower-income citizens, creates opportunities for discrimination, and criminalizes responsible gun owners, all while ignoring the real cause of gun deaths in Oregon. Lawmakers should focus on suicide prevention, mental health resources, and enforcing existing laws against violent crime, rather than restricting constitutional rights.

I strongly urge you to reject HB 3075 and pursue solutions that will actually make a difference in public safety.