

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

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 3075. While the intent may be to reduce violence with guns, I simply do not believe that will be the case. Individuals that intend on committing crimes have many other ways to secure a gun. Criminals are not going to utilize the permitting process to purchase a weapon they will be using to commit a crime. Guns will be stolen or purchased through a gun trafficker. The weapon is not the problem, but the human behind the weapon is. The sponsors of this bill should focus instead on the underlying causes of gun violence. More effort should be directed to helping those with mental illness and drug issues. Recent drug laws have made it more difficult to get drug users into treatment programs because we simply cite and release them instead of incarcerating them to provide necessary time for mental clarity to make a decision to enter treatment.

Doubling the fees for a new permit or a renewal will force more individuals wishing to purchase a gun to turn to gun traffickers. Increasing the time to process a permit from 30 to 60 days will do the same thing. Meanwhile, a person who is a victim of domestic violence or some other physical threat may not have 60 days to wait to protect themselves or their families. The same folks without funds to purchase a permit will not partake in a training course either, as again, they can't afford it. The training component states a person must have taken the course within 5 years of applying for a permit or a renewal. This means a retired law enforcement officer with years of gun training would have to take yet another training course to obtain a permit. This is ridiculous and just another way to make money for the state.

Our law enforcement agencies are already understaffed and have plenty of other responsibilities, with much greater importance than issuing gun permits. Small, rural agencies would especially feel the financial burden, as more FTEs would be necessary to meet the demand and they simply do not have the budgets to do this additional work.

The final insult of this bill is stating any challenge to it must be in the Circuit Court in Marion County! I am sure this is to "protect" this measure from any of our other Circuit Court judges in our Oregon counties, which may rule it is unconstitutional. This is not fair representation of our state.

In closing, this bill and measure 114 simply penalises law abiding citizens that are responsible gun owners. I understand many people in cities do not have much knowledge or experience with guns, but in Eastern Oregon, we have grown up with

them. Many of us hunt and use guns to protect our livestock from predators and are very familiar with them and have respect for them. We teach our children at young ages how to be responsible and safe when using a gun. We also travel long distances in remote areas by ourselves or with our families and have the right to protect ourselves from those which may try to make us their victim.

I thank you for your time and strongly urge you to oppose HB 3075 and 1 amendment as it won't solve the crime problems we are facing. We need to look at the root of gun, knives and other violence first. We also need to have our judicial system quit being so lenient on many of our crimes, especially those that involve violence.