

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

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3075, which seeks to modify the firearm permit provisions established under Ballot Measure 114. As a concerned citizen of Oregon, I believe this legislation undermines the fundamental rights of law-abiding individuals, imposes unnecessary burdens, and fails to address the root causes of violence in our communities.

First and foremost, HB3075 represents an overreach of government authority into the lives of responsible Oregonians. The Second Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, and measures like this bill erode that right by adding layers of crippling bureaucracy to an already lawful process. Reports indicate that HB3075 extends waiting periods—potentially doubling them from 30 to 60 days—and increases fees for permits. These changes disproportionately harm low-income individuals, like myself, who rely on firearms for self-defense, turning a constitutional right into a privilege for those who can afford the time and money to navigate the system.

Moreover, the expansion of the permit process does nothing to enhance public safety. Criminals, by definition, do not abide by laws—whether they involve background checks, waiting periods, or fees. Ballot Measure 114, which this bill amends, is already under significant legal scrutiny for its questionable effectiveness and constitutionality. Rather than doubling down on a flawed framework, the legislature should focus on enforcing existing laws and addressing mental health and socioeconomic factors that drive violence. HB3075's approach is a solution in search of a problem, punishing the law-abiding rather than targeting those who misuse firearms.

Additionally, the emergency clause attached to this bill is deeply troubling. By declaring an emergency, the legislature bypasses the ability of Oregonians to challenge this measure through the referendum process. This move stifles democratic accountability and suggests a lack of confidence in the bill's public support. If HB3075 were truly in the best interest of Oregonians, it should withstand open debate and scrutiny—not be rushed into law under the guise of urgency via the often overused and abused emergency.

I urge you to consider the voices of the majority of Oregonians who value their rights and reject policies that penalize the innocent while failing to deter crime. HB3075 is

an unnecessary and unjust expansion of government control that will only deepen distrust in our legislative process. I respectfully request that you vote NO on this bill and instead pursue practical, fair solutions that respect our constitutional freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Matthew Severance
Salem, Oregon