

Testimonial Opposing Oregon HB 3075

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 3075 (HB 3075), which proposes significant changes to the firearm permit process established by the marginally passed Ballot Measure 114 in 2022. While I understand the desire to address safety concerns, I believe HB 3075 imposes unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens, infringes upon constitutional rights, and undermines trust in government institutions.

1. Extended Processing Times and Bureaucratic Delays: One of the most concerning aspects of HB 3075 is the proposal to extend the permit processing time from 30 days to 60 days. This will disproportionately affect individuals, particularly in rural areas, who rely on firearms for immediate self-defense. In many rural communities, law enforcement response times are longer, and residents often do not have immediate access to police protection. A delay in obtaining a firearm purchase permit could leave them vulnerable during a critical period, unable to legally protect themselves. Extending the processing period will only worsen this issue, leaving responsible citizens without the means to defend themselves when they need it most.

2. Increased Fees for Firearm Permits: HB 3075 proposes increasing the maximum fees for firearm permit applications and renewals. While background checks are necessary, raising these fees adds a financial burden on individuals seeking to lawfully own a firearm. Many Oregonians already face financial challenges, and increasing the cost of obtaining or renewing a permit creates a barrier that may disproportionately affect lower-income individuals. This bill places an undue strain on those who are simply trying to comply with the law and exercise their constitutional rights.

3. Questionable Effectiveness in Reducing Gun Violence: While proponents of HB 3075 argue that it will reduce gun violence, the evidence suggests otherwise. Criminals, by nature, do not follow permitting laws, and Oregon's existing background check system already does an effective job of preventing prohibited individuals from acquiring firearms. Instead of addressing the root causes of gun violence—such as mental health issues, enforcement gaps, and illegal firearm trafficking—HB 3075 introduces additional, redundant regulations that do little to tackle these more pressing concerns. The bill ultimately punishes responsible, law-abiding citizens while leaving real threats unaddressed, failing to achieve any meaningful reduction in violence.

4. Legal Challenges and Centralized Jurisdiction: The provision that legal challenges to the bill must be filed in the Circuit Court for Marion County raises concerns about access to justice. Requiring all challenges to be heard in a single jurisdiction creates an undue burden on people across the state. Many individuals may lack the resources to travel to Marion County to file their challenges, effectively limiting access to justice and potentially silencing voices of opposition. This provision undermines the principle of accessible justice for all.

5. Circumventing Judicial Oversight: HB 3075's attempt to circumvent judicial oversight is a blatant power grab. Measure 114's implementation was halted by a Harney County judge, reflecting serious constitutional concerns. Rather than respecting the judicial process, HB 3075 rewrites the rules to dodge injunctions and fast-track enforcement. This move erodes trust in government and signals contempt for both the judiciary and the electorate. Oregonians deserve policies that respect their rights, prioritize fairness, and address actual threats. HB 3075 fails on all counts. It is an unconstitutional, inequitable, and ineffective measure that punishes the innocent while allowing real problems to go unaddressed. Lawmakers should reject this bill and focus on solutions that uphold liberty and deliver results, not rhetoric.

6. Violation of Ex Post Facto Laws: HB 3075 also violates the principle of ex post facto laws by criminalizing the possession of legally purchased magazines that were bought after December 2022. This retroactive punishment is inherently unjust, as it punishes law-abiding citizens for actions that were legal at the time of purchase. Such provisions undermine the rule of law and fairness, as citizens should not be penalized for exercising their rights based on laws that change after the fact.

7. Loss of Public Transparency: The bill also includes a provision that exempts firearm permit applicant information and criminal background checks from public disclosure. While protecting personal information is important, removing transparency from the process erodes public trust. Without transparency, there is less accountability in the system, which opens the door for potential inefficiencies or misuse of power. Ensuring that the public can access this information is essential to maintaining faith in our legal system.

In conclusion, while HB 3075 may have been introduced with the intent of improving public safety, it instead imposes unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens, infringes on constitutional rights, and undermines the trust Oregonians have in their government. I urge the legislature to reject this bill and focus on policies that respect individual rights, foster transparency, and target real public safety threats. Oregonians deserve better.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,
Christen Manning