

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

Submitted because verbal testimony not allowed:

Hello, my name is Steven Carlton. Thank you Chairman Kropf and committee members for your time, attention and service.

I am an Oregon voter, a member of Central Oregon Gun Safety advocates and I strongly support HB 3075-1.

Full disclosure-I worked to get Measure 114 on the ballot and voted for it because I believe Oregonians deserve its protections and it was a critical first step in the process. As Attorney General Rayfield says: "Oregonians voted for this, and it's time we move ahead with common sense safety measures." This measure was written to best protect the rights of responsible gun owners. Out of state gun lobby groups have funded challenges to the measure and worked to heighten fear rhetoric around gun control when the real issue is gun safety for all of us.

This work is not without precedent: the proposed "permit to purchase law" is similar to the permit requirements in 14 other states and Washington D.C., and nine other states plus D.C. ban or restrict high-capacity magazines. Both OR and Washington have adopted these measures.

It is a fact: states with strong laws see less gun violence. Indeed, the states that have failed to put basic protections into place—"national failures" so to speak on the scale—have a rate of gun deaths two and a half times higher than the states that are national gun safety leaders.

Oregonians are at real risk without this bill—for example it's impossible to provide an exact number of gun buyers in Oregon who don't have completed background checks, as Oregon State Police (OSP) data focuses on background check requests, and NOT the number of firearms sold, and so does not track sales of guns to disqualified buyers. Capt. Stephanie Bigman, spokesperson for the state police, stated that the backlog in Dec 2022 was 41,160 applications. This bill would close that tremendously frightening loophole when gun sales go through without checks. I understand this is improved but still a loophole.

We need to be accountable to uphold the public's decision to save lives with the measures in Measure 114. To yield to the gun lobby at this point is not consistent with the will of the people. House bill 3075-1 provides the next steps with common sense methods for implementation of the measure and it is time to take this action.

Thanks for your attention, please pass this bill out of committee as soon as possible.