

Testimony of Tom O'Connor
On HB 3075
To House Committee on the Judiciary
March 17, 2025

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee

My name is Tom O'Connor. I am a life-long gun owner, native Oregonian and resident of Clackamas County. I am here today to testify in support of HB 3075.

I am one of the founding members of Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership. Our organization was formed in the aftermath of the 2013 Clackamas Town Center shooting where two of our board members lost loved ones. We are gun owners, outdoor enthusiasts, veterans and parents who seek reasonable and effective solutions to gun violence

We believe that voter-passed Measure 114 is such a reasonable and effective approach. We endorsed Measure 114 when it was on the ballot and now that it has become law, we support the implementation measures in HB 3075 to ensure a smooth transition.

Research shows that the procedures in HB 3075 can save lives by establishing the requirements for a completed background check at the point of sale and requirements for a permit to purchase including firearm safety training and demonstration of familiarity with the basic Oregon laws regarding firearm use such as secure storage.

The Oregon Court of Appeals has ruled that the policies and regulations in Measure 114 dealing with permit to purchase and restrictions on high-capacity magazines meet the test of the Oregon Constitution.

From a gun owner's perspective we believe that these regulations are reasonable and that there is nothing in this approach that will prohibit responsible gun owners from taking part in hunting, target shooting, or, if necessary in extreme situations, the use of a firearm for home defense.

I grew up hunting and skeet shooting here in Oregon with my father and grandfather. I continue to enjoy target shooting and have completed the requirements for a concealed carry permit to better understand current laws. I am a gun owner, but more importantly, I am a parent and grandparent and I want all our children to be safe from gun violence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I urge you to give a do pass to HB 3075.