

Written Testimony Opposing HB 3075

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is **Hyon Chol Kahng**, and I am a **gun-owning, registered Democrat** who teaches **firearm safety to members of marginalized communities**. I strongly believe in **responsible firearm ownership** and in policies that genuinely reduce gun violence while respecting constitutional rights. However, **HB 3075 remains an impractical and inequitable approach that disproportionately burdens marginalized communities while failing to address the root causes of gun violence.**

As someone who works directly with at-risk populations, I have seen how access to **firearm education and responsible ownership** can empower vulnerable communities. HB 3075, unfortunately, **introduces financial, bureaucratic, and legal obstacles** that could discourage lawful ownership **without addressing the factors that drive gun violence.**

The Bill Fails to Address the Root Causes of Gun Violence

Gun violence in Oregon is primarily driven by **suicide and domestic violence**, not random acts of street crime. According to **Oregon Health Authority data**, **82% of firearm deaths in Oregon are suicides**, compared to **15% from homicides**. The most effective ways to reduce gun deaths are **suicide prevention programs, mental health resources, and domestic violence intervention**—yet HB 3075 **does not allocate funding** to these lifesaving efforts.

Rather than placing **bureaucratic barriers** in front of responsible gun owners, I urge the Legislature to prioritize **funding for suicide prevention hotlines, firearm storage awareness programs, and mental health crisis intervention teams**, which have been shown to **reduce firearm deaths without infringing on rights.**

Unfair Burden on Marginalized Communities

HB 3075 maintains the **permit-to-purchase process under law enforcement authority**, requiring applicants to seek approval from police agencies that may not operate equitably. For example, national studies indicate that **Black and Latino gun applicants are more likely to face delays or denials** compared to white applicants, even when meeting the same criteria.

Instead of **discretionary police approvals**, Oregon could implement a **standardized, objective permitting process** with **clear criteria, independent oversight, and an appeals mechanism** to ensure fairness. This would reduce the risk of **biased or inconsistent decision-making** while maintaining public safety.

Ongoing Privacy Concerns

HB 3075 allows **law enforcement to collect “any additional information determined necessary”** during the permitting process. Without limits, this could lead to **invasive requests** for:

- **Employment history**
- **Social media activity**
- **Medical and mental health records**

This is a **serious privacy risk**, particularly for domestic violence survivors or marginalized applicants who may not trust law enforcement with their personal data.

To **ensure transparency and prevent overreach**, HB 3075 should include **clear, written limits** on what data can be collected and stored.

Measure 114’s Unresolved Issues

Many flaws from **Measure 114** remain unaddressed in HB 3075, including:

Live-fire training barriers – Measure 114 **required live-fire training** but failed to provide an **affordable, accessible system for new gun owners to complete it**. This created a **catch-22** where people **could not obtain a firearm without training, but could not access training without a firearm**.

Instructor certification problems – Measure 114 **did not establish** a certification process for instructors, leaving many would-be applicants **without clear training options**. HB 3075 **still does not address this gap**.

To truly improve Oregon’s permitting system, **these logistical issues must be resolved** with **state-funded training programs and clear instructor guidelines**.

Large-Capacity Magazine Restrictions: Unworkable and Ineffective

HB 3075 **continues to impose restrictions on large-capacity magazines** without a **realistic method for tracking compliance**. The law fails to address:

- **Grandfathered magazines** – There is **no way to determine when a magazine was purchased**, making enforcement **arbitrary** and **largely reliant on self-reporting**.

- **Law-abiding owners at risk** – Responsible gun owners who **legally purchased magazines before the ban** may still face **confiscation, fines, or criminal penalties**.
- **Criminal noncompliance** – Those **with criminal intent WILL NOT COMPLY**, making this provision **largely symbolic rather than effective**.

Rather than passing **unenforceable restrictions**, Oregon should focus on **targeting firearm trafficking and illegal straw purchases**, which contribute **far more to violent crime** than legally owned magazines.

Conclusion

As a **gun-owning Democrat who actively teaches firearm safety to marginalized communities**, I strongly **oppose HB 3075** because it **fails to meaningfully address gun violence while disproportionately burdening vulnerable populations**.

Rather than imposing **bureaucratic obstacles and financial barriers**, Oregon should invest in:

- **Community-based violence prevention programs**
- **Suicide prevention and mental health resources**
- **Affordable and accessible firearm education**

I urge lawmakers to **reject HB 3075** and instead pursue **evidence-based solutions** that genuinely reduce gun violence **without infringing on the rights of responsible gun owners**—particularly those from marginalized backgrounds.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Hyon Chol Kahng
Precinct Committee Person, Multnomah Democrats