

Submitter: Laura Allen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Chair Jana, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Rules Committee,

I'm frankly shocked the Committee would even give this voter suppression bill a hearing. Oregonians value their right to vote, and our storied vote by mail system has been wildly successful in enabling so many more citizens to vote, to participate in the democratic process. There is absolutely no reason even to consider abandoning or limiting vote by mail. Why would we make it harder for folks to vote? SB 210 is antithetical to democracy and good governance.

Vote by mail is more than a mere convenience. It is necessary for people who are infirm, elderly, have disabilities, or lack transportation to polls. Vote by mail assures folks can vote despite illness, child care problems, weather emergencies, car breakdowns, or other unplanned sundry reasons that may prevent them from going to a polling location on a designated day. Vote by mail also assures folks won't be intimidated at polling locations. The legislature should not even be considering taking away this invaluable means of exercising our right to vote.

Laura Allen