

Submitter: Vanessa Gomez-Baldwin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Vanessa Gomez-Baldwin
6160 SW Heights Ln.
Beaverton, OR, 97007
vgomez732@gmail.com
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Senator Kate Lieber
900 Court St NE, S-205 Salem OR 97301

Dear Senator Lieber and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which would unjustly strip Oregonians of their longstanding and trusted vote-by-mail system while erecting barriers to the ballot box that will disproportionately impact working families, the elderly, disabled individuals, and rural communities. This bill is not about election security—it is about voter suppression.

Oregon has been a national leader in secure and accessible elections for over two decades. Our vote-by-mail system ensures that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in democracy without unnecessary obstacles. It is a safe, efficient, and highly secure process that has been overwhelmingly successful. SB 210 threatens to dismantle this success under the guise of so-called election integrity.

Forcing in-person voting as the default method and requiring picture IDs places an undue burden on countless voters. Many elderly and disabled Oregonians physically cannot stand in long lines or make it to polling places, especially those in rural areas with limited transportation. Working-class citizens who juggle multiple jobs, parents who balance childcare, and students who rely on mail-in voting for accessibility will be unfairly disenfranchised.

Furthermore, eliminating state-paid postage for ballots returned by mail is an outright attempt to make voting more difficult for low-income voters. No one should have to choose between affording a stamp and exercising their constitutional right to vote.

This bill is a blatant step backward in the fight for voting rights. At a time when we should be making voting more accessible, SB 210 does the opposite. We need policies that encourage civic participation, not ones that strip away a trusted and

proven system. Oregon's elections are already among the most secure in the nation. Why dismantle a system that works?

I urge you to stand up for democracy and reject SB 210. Protect the rights of Oregonians to vote freely, fairly, and without unnecessary barriers.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gomez-Baldwin
Beaverton, OR