

Submitter:

Madelyn Gillespie

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Hello, and thank you for taking this time to hear my position on SB 210. I have never written in to provide a testimony before this; however, I was so concerned to hear about this bill, that I felt obliged to speak out against it.

The right to vote is one of our most fundamental, vital rights as citizens, and should be protected as such. By reducing voting accessibility, this bill would greatly diminish countless Oregonians' ability to vote, which is unacceptable. Not only would it complicate the voting process for disabled and ill citizens, it would also impact those with inflexible work or education schedules, those with unreliable transportation, as well as caretakers and people without access to childcare. Requesting a mail-in ballot ahead of time only works if one's limitations are expected or predictable, and many people's lives are neither.

It is also worth noting that voter fraud by mail is infinitesimally rare, and non-eligible people already do not receive mail-in ballots, as one must be a citizen and registered to vote in order to receive a ballot. For this reason, this bill would not even reduce any kinds of fraud which are of actual relevance, so it is entirely purposeless. What this bill does do, however, is add to the already significant issue of voter suppression. To add insult to injury, the groups of people most affected by this bill are members of vulnerable groups who have historically already been underrepresented in voting: disabled and low-income citizens.

Please do not add to the disenfranchisement of the US people. We should be a state where we raise our people up, and listen to the voices of all Oregonians. We should not be a place where those most in need are pushed down and forced to jump through hoops in order to receive representation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maddie Gillespie