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On Behalf Of:
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Voting is a right that every citizen should have equitable access to. The notion that exercising this constitutionally guaranteed right requires in-person attendance, during a limited time window on a single day, creates undue hardship on those who wish to exercise that right and will no doubt lead to less voter participation.

I have personally lived and voted in four states - Michigan, California, Missouri, and Oregon - and can say unequivocally that Oregon's current model is far superior to any of the other mentioned states. As an Oregon voter, I have been more informed and more engaged and this is directly related to the opportunity to complete and mail in my ballot when my schedule permits. As a country, we should aim to improve voter turnout by limiting the barriers to casting a vote, not creating more hurdles. As evident by other jurisdictions that require in-person election day voting, many voters face uncertain wait times in long lines, reduced election locations, and are frequently unable to cast their vote even if they've been waiting to do so before election offices close. Why would Oregon want to model their election process after a system that reduces the voice of American citizens.

This process is impractical and unworkable for many Americans. For hourly workers, they lose an unknown amount of wages due to long wait times in line - and that is assuming they can take off from work for an undetermined and variable amount of time. While salary workers will not lose wages, they may face scrutiny from their employer for again missing an unknown amount of time per day. Election day in-person voting also has the potential to be disrupted by common life events. If one's car breaks down, a child gets sick, then suddenly the ability to exercise their voting right is impeded with no other available options.

As a nation of democracy, we should strive to encourage voting participation, not discourage or create scheduling burdens that will no doubt reduce turnout. One can only assume given all the information we have the matter of in-person voting vs. mail in voting, that the intention of this bill is to reduce the ability to inform oneself on issues while considering their vote and reduce the participation of voters altogether. Such a position violates the constitutional rights of Oregonians and inherently undermines America's democratic values.