

Submitter:

Joe Heller

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

We've seen this Republican playbook before and it's a clear push to disenfranchise voters and reduce Oregon's historically high turnout. I've been voting in Oregon since I turned 18 in 1998, coincidentally the year VBM was enacted. I have participated in every single election whether it's for a national candidate, a local commissioner, a ballot measure or a special election, because VBM has made it so I could use my constitutional voice whether I was in college, working, or raising a family.

Another incredible benefit in regard to VBM is we (the citizens of Oregon) feel that it gives us time to properly research the issues with ballot in hand. I often forgo mailing my ballot in and drive to my nearest drop box to hand it in personally. That's my choice and my right as an Oregonian.

With that said, I won't let anyone tell me that vote by mail is some kind of privilege only reserved for certain electoral groups. This is an absurd GOP tactic to reduce the amount of people who go out to the polls. Other language in this bill such as removing the independent standard for the number of polling locations and drop boxes is a clear attack on our elections. We've seen what MAGA and the GOP do with language like "the SOS shall determine the minimum number required..." They take that and determine the new minimum is fewer polling locations, fewer drop boxes, and in this case reduced access to the ballot box.

It is the same nonsensical garbage in regards to "Voter ID." Oregon already has voter ID! We know who votes, and while many voters may not remember, each voter is REQUIRED to provide valid proof of ID at the time of registration. This is another scare tactic to damage a system that has worked for decades and has shown no sign of insecurity demanding this ludicrous measure.

Even the Heritage Foundation, a right wing think tank that assisted with Project 2025, found that in the last 20 years the propensity for voter fraud in Oregon amounted to less than 0.001% To further enunciate the security in our elections if that wasn't enough, people committing voter fraud have been caught and prosecuted!

In short, this measure isn't fit to be used as the toilet paper in my bathroom, let alone garner any support to diminish voting rights from millions of Oregonians. We have a strong tradition in this state using VBM that has often been called the blueprint by other states following our lead. I'd like to believe that's because more voters having the chance to participate in the democratic process only strengthens it! Whereas bills like SB 210 take a shot at the framework of democracy and directly attack the

institutional pillars on which it rests.

As I opened so shall I close, the GOP couldn't make their playbook more obvious. Myself and many other Oregonians, even those registered GOP, will never support anyone who tries to gaslight us by saying less people voting is somehow better than what we have now.

Thank you,