

Submitter:

Mikaela E

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any efforts aimed at repealing Oregon's vote-by-mail system. As a constituent deeply invested in the democratic process, I believe that vote-by-mail has been instrumental in enhancing voter participation, ensuring election security, and providing a convenient and accessible means for all Oregonians to exercise their right to vote.

#### Enhanced Voter Participation

Oregon's adoption of vote-by-mail has led to consistently high voter turnout. By automatically sending ballots to registered voters, the system eliminates barriers such as long lines, limited polling hours, and transportation challenges. This inclusivity ensures that all eligible voters, regardless of their circumstances, have the opportunity to participate in elections.

#### Proven Security and Integrity

Over more than two decades, Oregon's vote-by-mail system has demonstrated remarkable security and integrity. Instances of voter fraud have been exceedingly rare, and the system's reliance on paper ballots provides a reliable paper trail, facilitating accurate recounts and audits. These features have established Oregon's elections as a model of transparency and trustworthiness.

#### Convenience and Accessibility

Voting by mail offers unparalleled convenience, allowing voters to thoughtfully complete their ballots at their own pace and in the comfort of their homes. This method is particularly beneficial for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those with demanding schedules, as it removes the need to navigate polling places or adhere to restrictive voting hours.

#### Cost-Effectiveness

Implementing vote-by-mail has proven to be cost-effective for the state. By reducing the need for physical polling stations and associated staffing, Oregon has realized significant savings without compromising the quality or accessibility of its elections.

#### National Recognition and Advocacy

Oregon's success with vote-by-mail has garnered national attention, inspiring legislative efforts to expand similar systems across the country. For instance, Oregon Congresswoman Andrea Salinas introduced the Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act to ensure all eligible U.S. voters have the option to vote by mail, highlighting the effectiveness and popularity of Oregon's approach.

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Repealing Oregon's vote-by-mail system would be a regressive step, undermining the progress we have made in fostering an inclusive, secure, and efficient electoral process. I urge you to oppose any such repeal efforts and to continue supporting a system that has empowered Oregonians and strengthened our democracy.