

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

SB 210 cannot be allowed to pass. Mail-in voting allows Oregonians to thoroughly and effectively, over the course of several weeks, consider and investigate their voting decisions in a way that in-person voting does not allow. An informed electorate is the purpose of a representative democracy and this change would absolutely jeopardize that. It would also disenfranchise those members of our state who work some of the longest, hardest hours in some of the most essential jobs that exist. Nurses, doctors, linemen, firefighters, paramedics etc. work extremely long shifts and often many days in a row. Yes, the privileged among us who think their own lives are representative of everyone else's lives will argue that there are ways for these restrictions to be planned ahead for and special ballots could be requested. But that is not real life. Anyone who is in the throes of parenthood and working these types of jobs would know that anything outside of the basic needs of survival for themselves and their families can easily be forgotten and left by the wayside as those immediate needs always take precedence. To support an accurate and inclusive voting bloc in our state, it must remain easily accessible to vote, including for those who don't have the privilege to be retired or work those mythical 9-5 jobs with two full days off every week. Let all the people have a voice. Don't let uninformed rhetoric undo what many years of actual verifiable evidence shows is an effective and safe way for all the people to have their voices heard. Imaginary "scary" thoughts should not ever take precedence over what is real and verifiable and we would do well to do the cognitive work to avoid the weakness of mind these fears demonstrate. This country is purported to be the land of the brave, but policies like this are from a root of fear of the "other." If, and only if, there is hard evidence obtained carefully and meticulously that vote by mail is contributing to fraud should this SB 210 ever be considered and even then, fewer Oregonians would be disenfranchised if the same vote by mail system itself was strengthened in ways that the many intelligent folks in our state would have no issue remedying. It shows an utter lack of understanding of the stages of human life (elders who cannot leave home, the busy unending work of parenthood, the build-up in an early career where transportation might be difficult) that this would ever be considered a better way for voting to occur. I am but one American citizen living in Oregon (born and raised here), but I have not forgotten my middle school civics lessons nor have I ignored the awful steps taken in other states in our union to leave "undesirable" voters by the wayside. Required in-person voting cannot happen here. Without representation we are not free and we cannot have representation without a voice (through voting). My husband is from Missouri and their votes were easily swayed by money because with in-person voting and no voters' guide provided, they often just voted based on whose commercial they caught on TV. Do we want a government run by only the wealthiest who can afford to run ads? It will

happen here if we switch to in-person voting. And we will be less safe, more mean and dumber for it. The wealthy do not have us regular people's interests in mind and we cannot cede them even more control. Keep Oregon in the hands of all Oregonians and kill SB 210.