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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I believe mail-in ballots carry a high risk of fraud. I have personally witnessed how easily they can be manipulated by spouses, significant others, friends, or family members of the ballot recipient. This is separate from the issue of entirely fraudulent ballots being mailed in—though I don't believe that number is particularly large. I believe a significant portion of ballots are influenced by individuals who have sway over the recipient through persuasion, coercion, or even by altering the ballots without the recipient's knowledge. For example, I have seen people sign their ballots and hand them over to their parents or spouses to fill out.

We, the people of Oregon, would benefit from eliminating mail-in ballots, as it would make our elections more secure and reduce outside influence on voters' choices. I also believe that removing mail-in ballots would encourage more enthusiastic participation. Currently, with mail-in voting, people often read only the short summaries—rarely the full pamphlet—and these descriptions of bills and candidates can sometimes be misleading. This, I believe, leads to more ill-informed voters who assume a brief summary is enough to fulfill their civic duty. In contrast, in-person voting requires more effort, which I believe motivates voters to research more thoroughly. While some ill-informed or uninspired voters may still vote in person, I believe their numbers would be far lower than those produced by a mail-in system.

Furthermore, mail-in ballots are vulnerable to tampering after they leave the recipient's hands. Although such tampering is likely rare.

Why maintain a process that allows for potential fraud, coercion, and outside influence?