

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I've been a librarian and have worked in local government for 23 years. As a librarian, I deeply care about access and making sure opportunities are given to everyone. Voting by mail reduces barriers for all Oregonians to participate in our democratic processes. It is vital that we maintain our vote by mail system because it removes barriers.

When I lived in California I used to work at polling places every election. I saw first hand the lack of access to many physical places. Seniors and folks with disabilities had a harder time participating. I think of the single parents or the people working gig jobs whose time is incredibly precious who may not have time to vote because they can't afford to take time off work. I think about the neurodivergent folks who need longer time to read and process in the information. All of these people need to know their vote matters and we can't make it harder for everyone to participate.

We are leader in this country with our vote by mail system and I'm incredibly disappointed at the state legislature for even allowing such a discriminatory bill come to a vote. Every voter and their vote should count. Reducing barriers allows the most participation possible.