

Submitter:

Megan Gleason

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am a physical therapist, and my primary clientele are those with neurologic conditions and or a disability of some kind. I believe that making in person voting will be very hard for a lot of my clients to vote and have their voice be heard. It is often hard for them to leave their homes, and the community is not always accessible to their mobility needs. I believe, maintaining voting by mail is essential in order to have as many voices be counted as possible. A lot of my clients also live in very rural areas and are living day-to-day on their Social Security, which often does not cover their rent, utilities, and food. We often have clients that cannot afford gas to make multiple trips for medical appointments. Maintaining voting by mail allows them access to voting without further straining their already limited resources. It also gives them more time to read all of the measures, as often the measures are not written at an eighth grade level and are very confusing to people. I think it's essential for people to have their voting pamphlets available when voting for a measure so they can read the different opinions and letters written in support for and against a measure to help them make their decisions on voting.

Another benefit of voting by mail allows people to not miss work, when people are already struggling with making enough to support their families. A lot of people cannot miss hours of work in order to go vote. Unfortunately, they may choose not to vote, and I do not believe this is fair. Voting in person would then favor those who are wealthy enough to either miss work or don't have to work and can easily carve out time in their day as many hours as needed to wait in line and then vote. I believe that changing to in person voting in Oregon would be discriminatory toward the less wealthy, the single parents, and the disabled.