

Submitter: Ashley Friend

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Since 1998, Ballot Measure 60, a citizens' initiative establishing vote by mail as the standard mechanism for voting in Oregon has allowed Oregon residents to conduct elections exclusively by mail. The measure was overwhelmingly popular, and remains so. Oregon's vote by mail system is a contributor to the state's high level of voter turnout.

Vote by mail has historically been favored by high levels of Republicans and Democrats. This bill is extremely helpful for all state residents, from caregivers who have elderly or disabled family members to support, to college students, to people working long hours. It also is extremely helpful for people who have medical conditions that would make standing in long lines at traditional ballot boxes difficult or impossible.

All Oregon residents who meet the criteria to vote should be afforded equitable access to voting. There is no legitimate reason that this bill should be repealed.