

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

In November 1998, as one of my first votes ever cast, i voted to make voting by mail the law of the land. I knew what I was doing was right then, and I know it now. Voting by mail is a necessary and intelligent approach to voting. It frees voters from the tyranny of worrying whether they will be given time to vote. It frees voters to make their vote on their time, not their boss's time, and not a bureaucrat's time. It enables voters to make informed decisions in the comfort of their own homes rather than rushed decisions in a public place. It has consistently increased voter turnout across the political spectrum, making it advantageous to all. And despite recent conservative falsehoods, it is confirmed as safe and secure by their own think tank -- the Heritage Foundation investigated Oregon's vote by mail system, looking at ballots cast between 2000 and 2019, and found only 17 cases of voter fraud across that entire history. 17 ballots cast by unlawful voters out of 15 million ballots. Voter fraud in our vote by mail system is literally a one in a million occurrence. Pretending to be concerned about it is as disingenuous and as silly as pretending to be worried about being struck by lightning one specific year and trying to make laws based on that fear. Let's call this claim what it is: a flagrant and willful lie. There is no reason to eliminate voting by mail that favors the voter. Not one. Eliminating voting by mail would only make voting harder, for all citizens, but especially for the disabled, the impoverished, the elderly, and those with limited transportation options. Making voting harder is anti-democratic and anti-American, and any lawmaker who seeks to do so should be permanently barred from holding office.