

Submitter: Ian Ingram  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon Senate Bill 210, which seeks to eliminate mail-in voting and mandate in-person voting on Election Day. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been a cornerstone of our democratic process, embodying dignity, promoting equity, and ensuring security. Dismantling this system would be a significant step backward for our state.

#### Dignity in Voting

Voting by mail allows citizens to engage in the electoral process thoughtfully and privately, free from the potential pressures and constraints of crowded polling stations. It affords voters the time to research candidates and measures, leading to more informed decision-making. This method respects the individual's right to participate in democracy in a manner that aligns with their personal circumstances and comfort. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8454782/>]

#### Promoting Equity

Mail-in voting is a powerful tool for inclusivity. It ensures that all citizens, regardless of physical ability, health status, work commitments, or caregiving responsibilities, have equal access to the ballot. For rural communities and those lacking reliable transportation, vote-by-mail eliminates significant barriers to participation. By maintaining this system, we uphold the principle that every eligible voter should have an equal opportunity to have their voice heard. [<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-to-make-vote-by-mail-both-safe-and-secure/>]

#### Ensuring Security

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is fortified with rigorous security measures. Ballots are mailed only to registered voters, each containing unique identifiers to prevent duplication. Signature verification processes are in place to confirm voter identity, and secure drop boxes provide a safe alternative to mailing ballots. These protocols have been effective in safeguarding against fraud and maintaining the integrity of our elections. The Oregon Secretary of State's office has consistently affirmed the security and reliability of our vote-by-mail system. [<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/security.aspx>]

## Conclusion

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing vote-by-mail, setting a standard that other states have sought to emulate. This system has enhanced voter participation and strengthened our democracy. Senate Bill 210 threatens to erode these advancements, imposing unnecessary restrictions that could disenfranchise many voters. I urge you to consider the profound implications of this bill and to uphold the values of dignity, equity, and security that our vote-by-mail system embodies.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter

Sincerely

Ian Ingram