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On Behalf Of:	Self
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB210

I have worked the Election Board in Jackson County since 2016 and have seen the efficiency and the integrity of Oregon's vote by mail up close and in detail. Working in bipartisan pairs, Democrats, Republicans and Independents sort, process, and adjudicate ballots for machine counting under the supervision of Republican County Clerk Chris Walker and her assistant Trisha Myers. We are always joined by observers from various organizations. Every election someone will stand up during the initial meeting to say how great it feels to be in such a group, working together and doing their part to ensure that the vote is protected and accurately counted.

Some Oregonians who would like us to return to in person precinct voting, reason that there would be less opportunity for fraud even though there is no evidence of widespread fraud. According to a Heritage Foundation database, from 2000 to 2017 seventeen individuals were prosecuted for voting violations in Oregon. Some will cite the recent registration error when the wrong form was selected by a clerk at the DMV, mistakenly registering persons ineligible to vote or the decision by the Secretary of State to not maintain "Deceased Retraction" reports supplied by ERIC, resulting in a lawsuit for violating the NVRA's 24-month minimum document retention mandate. The issue of form selection has been corrected and I don't believe the lawsuit has been settled. What I do believe is that these two incidences do not represent an effort to thwart our elections and are not connected to our vote by mail system. They can be attributed to human error and judgment.

If we return to a vote in person system, costs and time in the processing of elections will increase as the counties will need to staff the polling sites as well as the central processing site. Security may likely be required at these poll sites because of the threats of physical violence towards County Clerks and drop mail boxes that have increased in the last few years. I now go to work an election in a hardened office building: panic buttons, police escorts at ballot drop boxes, and emergency reinforced inside locking mechanisms on the office doors behind which we do our work. Using poll sites, the work will be slower, less efficient and more points of handling by personnel increase the possibility of loss or error. Some of my election fellow workers who have worked elections since before mail in tell of working into the wee hours of the morning on election night and often returning to complete the work. Oregon was smaller then, but the staff/hours to process the ballots larger.

The mail in system is not broken. In general elections, Oregon County Clerks now handle over 2 million ballots, doing more with less as county budgets are strained. They work quickly, efficiently and with integrity. It is not the mail in system that is

broken, it is trust and this bill will not fix that loss.