

Submitter:

Salina Hart

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing as a lifelong voter from Oregon—a state renowned for its accessible vote-by-mail system and comprehensive voter information materials. These practices have enabled me to participate fully in our democratic process by reviewing my choices and making informed decisions at my own pace.

However, my personal experience highlights a concerning trend. My mother, a native Oregonian now residing in rural New York, no longer has access to the vote-by-mail system and the detailed informational pamphlets that have long been the norm in Oregon. As she and her neighbors face the challenges of aging—such as limited transportation, physical mobility issues, and fewer polling locations—the shift away from accessible voting methods makes it increasingly difficult for them to cast their ballots.

The elimination of vote-by-mail and similar initiatives is not merely an administrative adjustment; it creates significant obstacles that amount to voter suppression. Rather than erecting these barriers, our state should champion policies that broaden voter inclusion. By expanding vote-by-mail, increasing early voting opportunities, and implementing other accessibility measures, we can ensure that every eligible voter, regardless of age or location, has an equal opportunity to participate in our elections.

I respectfully urge you to support legislation that protects and expands access to voting. Enhancing voting accessibility is essential to safeguarding our democratic principles and ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Salina Hart