

Submitter: Cindy Haley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Committee Members,

I was very concerned when I learned of the existence of this bill to bring back in person voting in our great state of Oregon. Since 1998 when Oregonians overwhelmingly passed to move to mail-in voting we have taken the lead in the nation for historically high voter turnout. Passed by 70% and in use for over 25 years, our ability to vote by mail allows ALL Oregonians to take part in our civic duty and have our voices heard. In 2022 Oregon had the highest voter turnout nationwide.

I am a native Oregonian and remember when we had to vote in person. Voting in person restricts the number of people who can participate particularly affecting the elderly, sick, disabled, and working single parent households. Limiting the number of people who get their voices heard is not what democracy is about. We need to retain our current system of mail-in voting for our state. There are processes in place to ensure ballots are confirmed to be only from the registered voter. Signatures are checked and only one ballot per registered voter is accepted. Our system is extremely robust and fair and allows for all voices to be heard. It also allows for careful consideration of candidates and measures and to take our time with our decisions. I will often make a few choices on my ballot but then have to research other less known measures and candidates. Voting in my own home at my own pace allows for more thoughtful decision making.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 210 and urge the committee to not move forward with this bill aimed to reduce Oregonian's voices in democracy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Haley