

Submitter:

Zelda Fox

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing as a concerned citizen of the state of Oregon who is appalled to hear that an end to universal mail-in voting is even being considered by the senate. Since its adoption in 1998 by virtue of a popular vote, vote by mail has increased voter turnout and thus empowered the voices of more Oregonians. Additionally it has expanded the reach of voting to far more eligible voters who for one reason or another cannot commute to a polling location on election day. These reasons can include disabilities, lack of a nearby polling place, lack of transportation options and having to work on election day. To take the ease of voting by mail away from the people of Oregon is an insult to us, as well as guaranteed to disenfranchise a swath of voters who rely on standardized mail in ballots. It is unconscionable that such action would even be proposed and such a policy would disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Having worked with our county's elections office I can speak with confidence when I tell you that mail in voting is safe, secure and incredibly accurate. Vote by mail is overwhelmingly popular with Oregonians across the political spectrum - there is absolutely no reason to force them back into in person voting. In the strongest possible terms I encourage the honorable members of the committee - both Democrat and Republican - to reject this idea wholesale and keep our elections safe, secure, and as easily accessible to as many people as possible. With democracy under threat in this country, it is more important than ever to stand up for the right of every Oregonian to vote in a way that is proven, accurate and removes as many boundaries as possible.