

Submitter:

Erica Lyon

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Hello all, I am writing to oppose SB 210. Right now, Oregon has some of the strongest voter protection laws in the country, which leads to us having among the highest voter turnout in the nation. Our landmark vote-by-mail law is a central reason why turnout in Oregon is consistently high, serving as the gold standard for the rest of the nation to follow. Unfortunately, vote-by-mail is under threat with this bill. SB 210 would take away what makes Oregon truly unique, and introduce barriers to vote for people with limited mobility such as those with disabilities or who are elderly, those who are unable to get time off work to vote, or those who live in rural communities. For those of us that would be able to make the adjustment, it would be a major inconvenience to have to wait in line for hours. Not to mention it would take away the luxury that so many Oregonians have come to appreciate of being able to fill out our ballots at home, a little bit at a time, as we learn about each of the issues and candidates. Voter participation would almost certainly plummet, reducing the number of voices being represented in our elections. In short, it would benefit no one, while further marginalizing the most vulnerable members of our community. It is a solution in search of a problem, with voter fraud being proven time and time again to be almost nonexistent, in Oregon and across the country. It would only introduce doubt in a system that has proven effective. This bill is only among the first of what is likely to be many that directly undermine our voting rights. We ask that you stay strong to protect Oregon's status as a leader in voting rights. We must resist the current administration's attempts to dismantle our democracy! Please vote no on SB 210.