

Submitter:

Trisha Page

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am here today to speak out against the idea of limiting voting methods to only in-person voting, as it would create significant barriers for people like myself, as well as many others who face physical, geographic, or logistical challenges when it comes to participating in elections.

For me, and for many people with disabilities, voting by mail has been not only the most accessible option but often the only viable option. Having a disability often means facing physical barriers that make in-person voting difficult or impossible. This can include issues with mobility, pain, and the physical strain of standing in long lines or traveling to polling locations, which may not be equipped to accommodate our needs. Many polling stations are not fully accessible, which further complicates the process.

Limiting voting to in-person only would disenfranchise individuals like me, who depend on mail-in ballots to exercise our fundamental right to vote. This change would disproportionately affect those who already face difficulties accessing basic services and could be especially harmful for elderly voters, people in rural areas, and those with chronic health conditions. By removing the option to vote by mail, we are essentially telling these groups that their voices do not matter, which is simply wrong.

I have always valued the ability to vote by mail, knowing that I have the same opportunity to participate in our democratic process as anyone else. It ensures that I am not excluded or forced to overcome unnecessary barriers in order to make my voice heard. Voting by mail gives me the time and space I need to review my ballot carefully, make my choices thoughtfully, and return my vote in a way that is both private and safe.

The option of voting by mail is a vital tool for ensuring equal access to democracy. It is a right enshrined in law, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees that individuals with disabilities have the same opportunity to participate in elections as anyone else. Limiting voting to in-person only would directly conflict with these protections and undermine the integrity of our democratic system by excluding millions of voters who cannot physically access polling stations.

I urge you to consider the real impact this proposed change would have on individuals like myself, and on all voters who face barriers to in-person voting. We must ensure that all citizens—regardless of their physical abilities—have the right and ability to cast their votes. I ask that you continue to support and expand access

to mail-in voting, so that every person has an equal opportunity to participate in our elections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.