

Submitter: Thea Hart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I oppose SB210, which would make voting less accessible and would undermine civic participation. I remember as a child accompanying my mother to the polls in Alaska and how difficult it was for a parent working full-time to participate in elections and civic life. There were many elections when she was scheduled to work on election day and was not able to vote because her employer would not allow her to leave work to go to her polling place, especially with an unknown wait time.

I have lived in Oregon for almost 20 years now and I appreciate vote by mail for so many reasons. As a parent working full-time myself, it's more accessible to me than voting in person ever could be. I also appreciate the opportunity to carefully and thoughtfully fill out my ballot over many days, while reading my voter's pamphlet, reflecting, and talking about civic issues with my friends and family. I'm so grateful for our secure vote-by-mail system and the relatively higher rate of voter turnout in our state. Oregon's elections are a model for the nation. Do not dismantle something that works so well.

Thank you,

Thea Hart