

Submitter: Hannah Felton
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to SB 210. As a mother of three young children and as someone living with multiple sclerosis, I can tell you plainly: vote-by-mail isn't just a convenience; it's a lifeline. Oregon's current system allows me to participate fully in our democracy without having to choose between my health, my family's needs, and my civic duty. If this bill passes, people like me would face enormous barriers to casting our votes.

I know firsthand how unpredictable life can be. My treatment schedule is strict and physically taxing. I can't always guarantee that I'll be mobile, stable, or even able to stand outside for hours on a specific Tuesday. Add to that the logistical complexity of arranging child care, voting in person becomes not just inconvenient, but nearly impossible.

And I'm not alone. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has long been a model for how to increase turnout and remove unnecessary friction from the democratic process. It works. It's secure. It empowers rural families, single parents, working-class Oregonians, disabled voters, and countless others who might otherwise be left out.

I also believe deeply in raising engaged citizens. My children watch me vote at our kitchen table. They ask questions. They learn. That's what civic participation looks like in our home—accessible, thoughtful, and woven into our lives. SB 210 would unravel that.

I urge you to reject this bill. It moves us backwards. We don't need to solve a problem that doesn't exist—we need to protect what already works and ensure that every Oregonian, regardless of circumstance, can have their voice heard.

Please preserve our vote-by-mail system. Keep democracy within reach for families like mine.