

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am a physician practicing in the state of Oregon. My clinical job is as an Orthopedic trauma surgeon; my work hours have me at the hospital or in my clinic during any regularly scheduled business hours. If you think getting an appointment with your doctor is already hard, or that waits in the hospital ED are already too long, imagine what would happen if you made all physicians (and nurses and other health care practitioners who are available during the hours you don't want to be) vote in person. Cancel a block of their clinic to go vote? Call in for an ED shift? Remove their first start case in the OR in order to make it to the voting office? Hopefully that isn't the day *you* happen to need urgent medical care, Senator Smith.

And I am among the privileged who COULD cancel my morning clinic on election day to go vote.

What of the families with parents working multiple jobs to make ends meet, who do NOT have the option of taking a morning off to go vote? Hard working individuals who have no flexibility in their schedule would have difficulty making in-person voting on election day. Individuals with disabilities that prevent them from easily accessing in-person voting? People without reliable transportation in rural communities? Someone who might be hospitalized on election day but otherwise would love to be voting?

I always brag to my out-of-state friends and family about the ease of voting in Oregon. I would hate to have to walk that back. This bill obviously makes voting prohibitively difficult for a large number of Oregonians, and while I'm sure that is actually the intent of the GOP politician who introduced it, let's be better than that, Oregon. Voting is a right we all have; let's keep the system that makes it accessible to the largest number of our citizens.