

Submitter: Shaughnessy Hutchins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I strongly oppose SB 210, as it would only serve to harm the community and make voting less accessible for everyone. Voting by mail allows countless people to participate in this essential civic duty, including disabled individuals, elderly individuals, single parents, individuals bed-bound by illness, full-time caretakers, individuals working multiple jobs, individuals who work restrictive or long shifts, college students, individuals below the federal poverty line who may be unable to afford transportation, and more. All of these people could be blocked out of voting if unable to do so by mail, thus restricting their voice and power in their communities. Various research has demonstrated that voting by mail increases voter turnout, and Oregon has one of the highest voter turnouts in the U.S., perhaps related to the ease with which voters can cast their mail-in ballots. For such an important civic duty, providing access to as many individuals as possible is the best way to represent the people and make sure everyone's voices are heard.