Submitter: Amanda Hawthorne

On Behalf Of: Oregonian voters

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Voting by mail has been effective and important for my family. We've lived in Oregon for 30 years, and never taken it for granted. We voted in every election because of it. No matter the time of life or circumstance we find ourselves in, red or blue voters, we can all vote by mail. This shouldn't be a partisan issue. I want my grandma with mobility issues to be able to vote, even if she votes diffently than me. I want my brother-in-law with a 60 hour work week and four kids in school to be able to vote. Vote by mail results in the highest voter turn outs. Shame on any law maker who would want less votes.

We take our time, sit down at the kitchen table with the voter pamphlet book and look up candidates. We look up measures and what they mean. The stuff we vote on gets more complicated every year! We need time to look at everything and make good decisions. Voting shouldn't be something we try to squeeze in, between picking kids up from school and getting milk, in a rush, as an errand. Voting should be deliberate and thought out.

It is less stressful, more civilized, and ultimately better democracy to vote by mail. If there are problems with this method, than fix them! You don't throw out a car because it has a flat. For goodness sake.

Please think about your motivations for this bill. If you really think fraud is a problem, why not figure out a way to limit fraud? Think about how far some of us would have to drive into town to get to a voting booth, and than wait in line, for how long? How many Oregonians won't be able to make it in to vote, how many won't be able to? When you count up all those votes, the votes of decent hardworking people - some of my family members are nurses working 12 hour shifts! - isn't that it's own kind of fraud? Changing the voting system so that less people vote sounds like voter fraud to me.

Oregonians benefit greatly from vote by mail. Our lawmakers should support the people, not make things harder for them. Your motto should be, "Red or Blue, I work for YOU." Remember to work for the people not against us. I want every one of my neighbors to vote, and if I don't like the outcome, too bad, that's democracy. Only a fool or someone with an agenda would try to get a bill passed that limits Oregonians votes. People in my family hunt, farm, fish, teach, nurse, build, and VOTE. Keep vote-by-mail and keep Oregon strong. Abandon it and you abandon voters who work the hardest, the longest hours, the tightest schedules for the strictest bosses. Shame on any lawmakers who would abandon those voters. They are the backbone of the state. Support all Oregonians and keep vote-by-mail.