

Submitter:

Allayne Seamans

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill aimed at removing mail-in voting in Oregon. As a citizen of this state, I believe this bill undermines the core values of our democracy by disenfranchising voters, particularly those who rely on this method of voting to participate in elections.

Oregon has a long-standing tradition of expanding access to voting, and the success of our mail-in voting system is well-documented. In fact, Oregon has been a leader in voter accessibility, with a higher voter turnout compared to many other states. The convenience and security of mail-in voting have made it easier for all eligible citizens—whether elderly, disabled, or living in rural areas—to have their voices heard. Removing this option would disproportionately impact these vulnerable groups.

Mail-in voting also ensures that voters can participate without the constraints of limited polling place hours, long wait times, and transportation issues. The convenience of voting by mail has proven to be an essential tool in increasing civic engagement and voter participation, particularly in our state, where diverse communities are spread across wide geographical areas.

Moreover, the system has been rigorously tested and improved over time to ensure its security and reliability. The claim that mail-in voting leads to widespread fraud is simply not supported by evidence. Multiple studies and audits of Oregon's elections have shown no significant issues with the mail-in voting process. By removing this method, we would be throwing away a system that is both effective and trusted by Oregonians.

I urge you to reconsider supporting this bill and to keep Oregon's voting system inclusive, accessible, and secure for all citizens. We should be expanding, not restricting, access to the ballot box. If we truly value democracy, we must ensure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in the election process, regardless of their circumstances.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with Oregon voters and oppose this bill