

Submitter: Cynthia Brown
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

****Testimony Opposing Oregon Legislature SB 210****

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210, which proposes to repeal mail-in voting in Oregon. This legislation threatens not only the accessibility of our electoral process but also undermines the very foundations of our democracy.

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing mail-in voting, establishing a system that has proven effective and reliable. This method of voting has significantly increased participation among Oregonians, enabling citizens—especially those with disabilities, busy parents, and those living in remote areas—to exercise their right to vote. By stripping away mail-in voting, SB 210 risks disenfranchising countless voters who rely on this accessible method to make their voices heard.

The convenience and security of mail-in voting are well-documented. During recent elections, we have seen record voter turnout, reflecting the success of our current system. This process allows individuals to carefully consider their choices without the pressure of rushing to a polling place on Election Day. Furthermore, it has been shown that mail-in voting is secure; states that utilize it do not experience higher rates of fraud. Instead of dismantling this effective system, we should be looking for ways to enhance its security and expand its reach.

Additionally, the repeal of mail-in voting raises significant concerns about equity. Voting is a fundamental right, and we must ensure that it is accessible to all Oregonians, regardless of their circumstances. Removing mail-in voting would disproportionately affect marginalized communities, the elderly, and those facing transportation challenges, further perpetuating inequality in our democratic process.

We are at a pivotal moment in our democracy. Rather than regressing, we must move forward by reinforcing voter access and promoting inclusive practices. The overwhelming majority of Oregonians support maintaining mail-in voting, as evidenced by past elections and public opinion. Let's not take a step backward that could disenfranchise many of our fellow citizens.

Therefore, I urge you to reject SB 210 for the sake of upholding our democratic values, ensuring access for all voters, and maintaining the integrity of our electoral process. Let us protect the means by which every voice can contribute to shaping our

state and our future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Brown