

Submitter:

Elizabeth Forkner

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Oregon's vote-by-mail system has proven to be a valuable way to provide voter access and uphold democracy. I have been voting this way since moving to Oregon 25 years ago. For many of those years I was a stay-at-home mom to small children. While voting is important to me, I know there are many times when I had sick kids or was otherwise overwhelmed that I would not have made it to an in-person vote. Before that I worked with seniors and people with disabilities, many of whom also would have found in-person voting challenging.

I can attest that our election officials do their due diligence to ensure that mail-in ballots are not fraudulent. Just a few years ago I received a notice that I needed to come in to our Elections Department because my signature had changed over the years, and they needed to make sure that it was still me voting. I had to bring photo ID and demonstrate my signature in front of officials so they could record the changes to match to future ballots.

The mail-in system provides voting access to so many besides just the absentee exceptions made by SB210. Don't take our access away by requiring in-person voting! Continue to allow all to vote by mail-in ballots.