Submitter: Christer Rowan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Voting by mail can be done in the comfort of my own home, at my own pace, with access to all the materials I need to make informed decisions. If I don't want to trust the mail, I can drop my ballot into an official ballot box. I can drop it off when I'm already out of the house and running errands. I have time and options.

As a person whom the federal government has determined to be too disabled to be expected to find and hold employment, thankfully I wouldn't need to figure out how to get the time off for voting in person. I would, however, need to do almost nothing for a day or two beforehand, to maximize my chances of having a 'good pain day' on election day. A 'bad pain day' would mean I don't get to vote.

Voting in person cannot be done from the comfort of my home. It requires planning nothing else for the entire day, to ensure that I have the time and energy to go out, wait in line for however long, enter a small booth, and refer to the piece of paper with all my notes about the various politicians and state, county, and city legislation, which I hopefully remember to bring with me. And, if it's cold or raining, load my wheelchair into the car beforehand, unload it at the polling location, load it back up when I'm done, and unload it again at home. Also, unless I was able to vote immediately, without waiting in line, I'll need a day or two of recovery from the physical effort and overstimulation. That's three to five days taken out of my life to vote in person, compared to a half hour at a time, here and there, for a few weeks, for vote-by-mail.

For those who are employed, many will struggle to get the time off to vote in person. For those who are without reliable transportation or without childcare, many will struggle to get to the polls.

As a result of vote-by-mail, Oregon has one of the highest rates of voter turnout among the States.

Ending vote-by-mail is _purposeful_ voter suppression.