

Submitter:

Allison Phillips

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose this bill to end mail-in voting in Oregon. I have been an Oregon resident since 2007, and one of the things I love most about this state is its citizens' commitment to civic engagement. Our mail-in voting system is a cornerstone of this commitment. Mail-in ballots democratize the voting process. Whether a person is able-bodied, has access to transportation, or has an accommodating schedule are no longer prerequisites for participating in the voting process. Citizens can exercise their right to vote as long as they can drop their ballot in the mail in the weeks leading up to Election Day. Mail-in voting increases voter turnout and helps us create a more representative democracy. Personally, I have great appreciation for mail-in voting, as it has allowed me to vote when I've been a caretaker to young children and working a demanding job without family support nearby. In addition, mail-in voting gives voters the time and space to make thoughtful decisions when considering their ballot choices rather than rushing through to fill in a ballot in person. I have had valuable conversations with my children about the importance of voting when they've seen our ballots arrive in the mail and watched my husband and I take time filling them out. Finally, I trust that our mail-in voting process is extremely secure, with a built-in paper trail and many safeguards protecting the process. This bill proposing to get rid of mail-in voting is anti-democratic and will only serve to stifle the voices of Oregonians. It must be soundly rejected.