

Submitter:

Susan Choi

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill aiming to abolish mail-in voting. Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy, and removing the option to vote by mail would impose unnecessary hurdles, particularly impacting vulnerable communities.

Mail-in voting serves as an essential mechanism for many, including the elderly, disabled, and those residing in rural or underserved regions, where accessing polling stations can be challenging or even unfeasible. Those with demanding jobs, childcare responsibilities, or health concerns shouldn't have to choose between voting and fulfilling their other commitments. Eliminating mail-in voting would disproportionately impact these groups, effectively silencing their voices.

Research consistently demonstrates that mail-in voting boosts overall voter turnout, fostering a more inclusive democratic process. In the 2020 election, for instance, unprecedented numbers of Americans voted by mail, allowing for safe and convenient participation despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Allegations of widespread fraud related to mail-in voting have been thoroughly investigated and debunked, with no credible evidence indicating that mail-in voting jeopardizes election integrity. Election officials nationwide have affirmed that mail-in voting is both secure and closely monitored.

Doing away with mail-in voting would suppress voter participation. Every eligible voter deserves to have their voice heard, regardless of their circumstances. This bill would eliminate a vital option for millions of voters, complicating their ability to engage in the democratic process.

Instead of eradicating mail-in voting, we should strive to enhance access to all voting methods. By bolstering security, promoting voter education, and ensuring all voters—whether they choose to vote by mail, early, or in person—can easily and securely cast their ballots, we would expand, not restrict, voting access.

Thus, I urge you to oppose this bill and safeguard every citizen's right to partake in our elections. Removing mail-in voting would restrict access to democracy, a move that serves no one.