

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I have been fortunate to only know "mail in voting" as it was in effect when I was first eligible to vote. When I went to university on the East Coast my family was able to send me my ballots and I was able to vote and participate in the democratic process and have my voice count. If there was no mail in voting I would of been disenfranchised and not able to participate in the democratic process. With the work I have done since graduating from university, my work schedule is quite intense and travel abroad, eliminating mail in voting would set up barriers and make it very difficult for me to participate.

I find it very disturbing that State Senator Smith, someone who is supposed to uphold democratic principals, would want to put up barriers and make it more difficult for constituents to participate in the democratic process. As a constituent, you have to ask yourself why does Smith and his colleagues want to make it more difficult to vote and why do they want to try and limit who can participate in our democratic process.

It would be difficult for me to take a day off work to stand in lines at a polling station to vote. Also, I am a manager of people, it would negatively impact my business if I had to have my employees take time off work to go vote. If it is difficult for me to do that, what about the person who is an hourly worker who would have to take unpaid time off? What about students who are in other states obtaining their education, does their voice not count? Or those who do not have access to transportation or those with disabilities or seniors which make it difficult to travel? Does their voice not count?

I see that Smith is a restaurant owner, is he going to close his business and give his staff paid time off to vote?

We should not be limiting or making it more difficult to participate in the democratic process but finding ways to make it easier and encouraging more people to participate.

This bill should be opposed and tabled so it never leaves the committee.