

Submitter: Kari Atlansky

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

To Senate Committee on Rules:

I am a constituent of Portland, Oregon.

I am writing to oppose bill SB 210. I am against repealing vote-by-mail in Oregon.

There are several reasons to advocate for the flexibility and inclusivity of mail-in voting, and the core drive is to encourage more people to vote. We need to protect democracy and the right to vote. Getting rid of vote-by-mail in Oregon is another attempt to suppress voter's rights. Voting by mail is the safest way to cast a ballot for many voters, whether they are immunocompromised, have a disability, or simply want to protect the health of their communities. Offering the option to vote by mail isn't just in the electorate's best interests, but it can work wonders for efficiency and cost management. Voting by mail is cost-effective and easier to manage with ballots and instructions sent out in advance of election days, and collating responses allows election officials to maintain accurate voting lists and refresh out-of-date voter information. Mail-in ballot is crucial for vulnerable citizens, carers, and those with underlying health conditions that may have little choice about voting at a polling station. Mail-in voting is crucial for access to official elections for a significant proportion of people. Inclusivity is essential to voter confidence, and it is often the more marginalized groups that are unable to participate when conventional ballots require in-person attendance. Offering alternatives, such as mail-in ballots, ensures that an election's outcome is fair and representative of the diverse communities within the voter pool, rather than only those with the privilege and resources to miss work or travel in order to cast their vote. Thank you for your service and for taking the time to read my written testimony. I ask that you oppose the bill SB 210. We need to need to support democracy and voter's rights and keep vote-by-mail in Oregon.

Voting by mail in Oregon works efficiently and effectively; we need to keep it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kari Atlansky