

Submitter:

Clanci Taylor

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to any efforts to abolish or restrict mail-in voting. The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy, and it is essential that we continue to make it accessible to all eligible voters, regardless of their circumstances. Mail-in voting plays a critical role in ensuring that every voice is heard and that elections remain free, fair, and inclusive.

Firstly, mail-in voting provides a vital option for individuals who may face barriers to voting in person. For people with disabilities, elderly citizens, or those living in remote areas, voting by mail can be the only feasible way to participate in an election. Additionally, individuals who work long hours, have caregiving responsibilities, or have health concerns may find it difficult, if not impossible, to vote in person during traditional polling hours. By abolishing mail-in voting, we would be disenfranchising these individuals, many of whom would otherwise have no means to cast their ballots.

Furthermore, mail-in voting has been shown to increase voter turnout. In many elections, mail-in voting has enabled a higher percentage of citizens to participate, ensuring that elections are more representative of the broader population. Encouraging more people to vote is essential to the health of our democracy, and eliminating an accessible voting method like mail-in voting would likely suppress voter turnout, especially among marginalized groups.

It is important to recognize that the security concerns surrounding mail-in voting have been thoroughly addressed through safeguards such as voter verification, signature matching, and secure ballot processing. Studies and investigations have repeatedly shown that instances of voter fraud related to mail-in voting are exceedingly rare. In fact, research has demonstrated that in-person voting is no less prone to fraud and errors than mail-in voting.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic proved how essential mail-in voting is during times of crisis. During the pandemic, many voters turned to mail-in ballots to safely exercise their right to vote without risking their health or the health of others. This demonstrated that mail-in voting can adapt to challenging circumstances and ensure that elections are not disrupted, regardless of external factors.

In conclusion, abolishing mail-in voting would limit access to the democratic process,

harm vulnerable populations, and reduce voter turnout. Instead of restricting access, we should work to improve and expand the options available to all eligible voters. I urge you to oppose any efforts to abolish mail-in voting and to continue supporting policies that make it easier, not harder, for all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Clanci Taylor
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