

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

In opposition to the proposed bill that seeks to eliminate mail-in voting in Oregon, I strongly emphasize the detrimental effects this would have on our democratic process. Removing the mail-in voting option would create barriers to voting access for many citizens, particularly those with disabilities, the elderly, and individuals living in rural areas. By taking away this essential voting method, we risk disenfranchising these populations and suppressing voter turnout.

Oregon has long been a pioneer in voting access, and mail-in voting has proven to be a secure, reliable, and convenient way for citizens to participate in elections. Rather than limiting voting options, we should continue to prioritize voter accessibility, ensuring that every eligible voter has an opportunity to exercise their fundamental democratic right.

In addition to the negative impact on voter accessibility, it's important to note that the push to remove mail-in voting is often based on unfounded fears of voter fraud. Numerous studies and investigations have consistently found that mail-in voting is a secure and reliable method of casting ballots. Instances of voter fraud in mail-in voting are extremely rare, and there is no evidence to suggest that it is more susceptible to fraud than in-person voting.

Rather than acting on unsubstantiated concerns, we should focus on maintaining and improving our existing election systems to ensure fairness, transparency, and accessibility for all voters. Preserving mail-in voting as an option is critical to upholding these democratic values.