

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Voting by mail is essential to Oregon life. I grew up thinking it was standard for all Americans. Little did I know it made voting a possibility for me at all times. I grew up in Oregon to two parents that always voted by mail. When I studied politics, I'd hear about the long lines and no bathroom or water breaks in the lines and how inhumane that sounded. I'm incredibly angry that this bill has been proposed. Now, as a soon-to-be mom, I know I can't wait in lines to vote. But I know my vote matters. Voting by mail allows me to spend more time with my family, preparing meals, volunteering for the community, and completing tasks at my job. By stripping that right away, my husband and I would need to find childcare and take off work to vote... that's something we can afford but not everyone has that privilege. I guarantee certain socioeconomic blocks in the community don't- and with voting- every voice matters.

Seeing the world as a future new mom, I am sad to know that my child's generation is losing rights and flexibility within society. I always check how my ballot is doing, following the app to ensure my vote counts. I am so sad to think that my child might have to go days without my help while I wait in lines to protect democracy. I'm sad I can't use that time to volunteer and make an impact. I'm also sad my economic contribution turns to \$0 that day.

All around- voting by mail allows me the freedom to use my time in a beneficial way. It encourages voting and it also allows people with special circumstances to participate. All votes matter and all votes should be received. And by removing the mail in option; we're rolling back rights and making it harder for good, hardworking Americans to vote.