

Submitter:

Nikolai Huiras

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Senators, I am writing to you to vehemently oppose this anti-democratic bill, SB 210. I am a caregiver for the State of Oregon, employed by our honored veterans, retired educators, and adults with disabilities. This bill seeks to disenfranchise all of my clients, as well as myself, by putting up barriers to the elderly, disabled people, and low-income people who work hours that prevent them from visiting polling stations on a weekday. Extra barriers that disproportionately affect your constituents based on their immutable characteristics are unlawful discrimination, and against every basic sense of decency. You conservative legislators who claim to honor our veterans: why do you want to force my mobility-challenged veteran care client to put himself into a day of pain, dehydration, and fall-risks, because of a problem that doesn't exist? So many others like him, who risked their lives for you, who may even vote for you, depend on voting by mail granting them equal access to their well-earned right to the ballot. Fraud in vote-by-mail has been consistently proven to occur less than 0.001% of the time. Shame on you for seeking to trample on the dignity of the people I care for, because of disinformation and outright conspiracy theories. The people of Oregon demand a wide range of options that guarantee equivalent access for us all. No one is forced to vote by mail, and if the status quo remains, no one's right to take themselves physically to a ballot box will be threatened in any way. This bill represents the worst instincts of authoritarian rule, in mandating a single mode of compliance that directly removes personal freedoms from the specific demographics I mentioned previously, who are considered undesirable by the enemies of democracy. I look forward to its sound defeat.