

Submitter:

Brandon Beck

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am writing to voice my opposition to senate bill 210. I moved to Oregon a little less than two years ago from South Carolina, and last year I had the privilege of voting for the first time as a resident of Oregon. I cannot overstate how much better Oregon's vote by mail system is compared to the almost entirely in-person voting I experienced in South Carolina.

In the most recent South Carolina election I participated in, I carefully arranged my schedule so as to be free on election day morning. I drove to a local polling place, and queued in line for about half an hour. I was then escorted by a poll worker to a voting machine. Standing there, I was presented with a list of names to choose from. I had researched the election on my own, yet there were several races in which, being now in the polling booth, I could not recall any real information distinguishing the candidates before me. Not wanting to hold up the line, I chose whatever name aligned with my political party or else whatever name struck me in the moment as trustworthy, and I left. My experience with in-person voting has been inconvenient and confusing. I am not confident that I made the correct choices in any given race.

Compare this to the voter experience in Oregon. I registered to vote when I received my Oregon drivers license, and my ballot was mailed directly to me a few weeks before election day. Included was a pamphlet clearly outlining the candidates and ballot initiatives I would be deciding on. I was able to, in my own time, sit down and carefully consider my choices. I had the time and freedom to pick the candidate that most closely aligned with my priorities as a voter, and after voting in Oregon, I feel both informed and confident in the choices that I made. I did not have to take time off work or consider my schedule in any way.

In short, voting by mail in Oregon is secure, convenient, and informed. I strongly oppose any attempt to repeal it.

Thank you.