

Submitter:

Marley Sherwood

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

To all who are involved in making decisions concerning this bill:

SB210 would be an egregious step back for our state's democratic process. With mail-in ballots being the standard in Oregon over the past few decades, the improvements in voter turnout have been clear and encouraging. We have actually been able to make our voices heard - is that not the entire point of American democracy? To return to in-person voting would only have one result: less voters. Shouldn't any decision about elections be focused on increasing voter turnout?

I am disabled and unable to drive. SB210 would singlehandedly make voting 10 times more difficult to me, and perhaps occasionally impossible depending on circumstances outside of my control. SB210 would severely impact the ability of the following groups to vote: disabled people, immunocompromised people, the elderly, anyone who can't afford to miss a day at work, pregnant women, and new mothers. Even if someone doesn't fall into one of these categories, there are many things outside of any individual's control that could impact their ability to vote on election day. If someone should get sick, have a child get sick, or have any kind of emergency during the time allotted to in-person voting, this unfortunate stroke of luck would mean they just lost their right to participate in the vote. I don't believe that my, or anyone else's, right to vote should hinge on the arbitrary nature of luck and chance. I also think it's important to realize that if something isn't easy, many people simply won't do it. If we want to embody true democracy, we should focus on making voting as easy as possible instead of making it harder. If someone supports this bill, I have to assume that, for whatever reason, they actually WANT fewer voters. We should all question why anyone who purports to be a servant of American democracy would want such a thing.