

Dear Oregon Senate members,

I am writing in opposition to senate bill 210, which proposes to end our current mail in ballot procedure in favor of in person at the ballot box voting.

This ballot measure is a bad idea.

Proponents of this type of measure trot out “accountability” and reducing fraud and such. There is no evidence that such fraud exists. Oregon currently has a safe and secure mail in voting process. This measure is quite simply an underhanded means to reduce the voter turnout of working and marginalized voter communities.

Mail in voting increases voter participation by making it easier to vote. People who work, or who have hard time traveling, or who live far from the voting booth have an easier time participating in the democratic process, This, to me, is the goal of our voting process.

Why are we trying to fix something that isn't broken? The current mail in voter system has served Oregon well. Starting in 1981 with smaller test uses of mail in voting and culminating in 1995 with successful, and high voter turnout, statewide elections, vote by mail has proven itself in every election it has been used – 30 years and counting.

I say no to senate bill 210.

Yours,

Viriam Khalsa