

Submitter: Danielle Gin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Mail-in voting makes it possible for countless constituents to participate in elections they would otherwise be unable or struggle significantly more to cast their vote in, including people in rural communities as well as many elderly and disabled people.

This attempt to rid this state of mail-in voting is not based in actual worries about widespread voter fraud caused by the system, of which there is no evidence. It is part of a wave of efforts nation-wide to continually disenfranchise voters and chip away at more democratic systems of governance by making it more challenging for us to have our voices heard at the polls in order to solidify political power of politicians who seek to propogate their undemocratic, fascist ideals within US goverment entities.

My husband grew up in a rural area of this state, and has spoken at length to the the value mail-in voting has had to his family. My family voted via mail-in ballots in the SW state I grew up in my whole life, and still do. We have confidence in this mail-in ballot system because we have seen it function over decades, and have seen no serious proof of the supposedly rampant fraud politicians and news outlets are inciting fear around.

As someone who's lived in 5 states across the entire span of this country, I can speak to how it was much more time and energy-consuming it was to vote in states without mail-in ballot systems, how many people I knew who regularly could not vote because they could not make it to the polls in-person due to work and family obligations, and how the communities I was embedded in there spoke of how they wished their states had a mail-in ballot option like Oregon's because of its power to increase voter turnout and make their personal experience voting notably easier.

We have this system now, and ripping it away from voters now would be a clearly undemocratic move that cannot be tolerated. I cannot support this measure in any form, and neither should my fellow Oregonians.