

Submitter: Jessica Hebert  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210  
To the committee:

The first election after I moved to Oregon almost 20 years ago, I was surprised to get a ballot in the mail. That's when I learned all my friends and neighbors got theirs in the mail, too, along with a Voter Guide. We have a family tradition now: sitting together at a dining room table, Voter Guide and pen in hand, and a glass of something hydrating. It gives us a chance to really understand the issues and positions of the people set to represent us.

I remembered standing in a box in Minnesota, thinking, "What was this one about again? Was this the one phrased funny so you think you're voting one way and it's another? Who was this guy again?" In Oregon, you could take your time to look it up. You can talk to people about it before you submit your ballot. Vote by Mail is the most logical way to vote, and in Oregon, it is also one of the most secure. There have been 17 total incidents of convicted voter fraud in Oregon in 25 years, and most of those were people who forgot they were registered in Oregon and also voted in another state. These single duplicate votes were easily caught, which shows you how secure our system is, especially when you realize Oregonians cast 2 million votes per year. In Minnesota, where I used to vote, over 25 years there have been 138 cases without 100% Vote by Mail. Security is neither a valid nor sufficient reason to nullify Vote by Mail.

Oregon consistently has one of the highest percentages of registered voters voting every cycle because of accessibility. People in rural areas would need to travel from miles around to go to a polling station. In more condensed cities, either you have to take a day off or pray your lunch break is long enough to do your duty. You might need to find childcare or elder care while you vote, or go with someone to assist them. There are a number of barriers to voting in person, and you will definitely see a significant drop in our proud percentages if you remove accessibility. Vote by Mail is an equalizer in elections for all.

I am asking you to immediately oppose, bury, and never again resurrect the idea that Vote for Mail is bad for Oregonians. Vote by Mail is a MODEL of how voting should be done across the country.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jessica F. Hebert  
Milwaukie, Oregon