

Submitter:

Brandy Stoffel

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Statement in Support of SB 210:

As someone who has worked closely with vulnerable populations, I am writing in strong support of SB 210, which would require in-person voting with appropriate safeguards. While vote-by-mail is often presented as a convenience, for many of the most vulnerable in our communities—especially individuals with developmental disabilities (DD), cognitive decline, or those living in nursing homes—it has the opposite effect: it silences their true voice.

The assumption that the person receiving a ballot in the mail is also the one filling it out is not only unrealistic—it's deeply flawed and dangerous. In reality, ballots sent to group living facilities or to those under full-time care are often filled out by caregivers, staff, or even family members. While many caregivers act ethically, the risk of coercion—intentional or otherwise—is real. This quiet manipulation robs people of their fundamental right to cast their own vote. It may be done with good intentions, but it is no less undemocratic.

I have seen firsthand how ballots are completed for individuals who are either unaware of the election or unable to understand the questions or candidates involved. Their caregivers decide how to vote—and then do so using the resident's ballot. This transforms a vulnerable individual's vote into someone else's political expression.

In close county-wide elections, this issue is not theoretical. It has the potential to skew results. We are talking about thousands of votes, not isolated incidents. Protecting the integrity of our elections means protecting the integrity of every vote—including those cast by our most vulnerable. Requiring in-person voting—with options for accessible voting stations and clear protections—restores accountability, dignity, and fairness.

SB 210 does not take away access—it restores integrity. It doesn't ignore the needs of the disabled or elderly—it ensures their true voices are heard.

For the sake of justice, accuracy, and equal protection under the law, I urge lawmakers to pass SB 210.