

Submitter:

Mary Linda Pinkham

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I oppose changes to our current vote-by-mail election procedures. I am close to 70 and my spouse is 95% disabled veteran. We are both old enough to remember having to vote in person in Oregon. It was even difficult back then when we were younger, standing in line out in the cold waiting to vote, meanwhile being forced to choose between getting to work on time or being able to have a say in our governance.

The rules in this proposal suggest that every year we would need to show up in person and show ID to even request an absentee ballot. This is absolutely untenable for the elderly and disabled. There is no credible evidence that the current system creates enough fraud to make any difference in our election outcomes. These changes amount to voter suppression that affect both political parties. The current system IS NOT broken, and therefore, should not be changed.

Furthermore, because most of rural Oregon is conservative, it actually does the opposite of what the authors of the bill intended to do. The variability of weather and road conditions in much of Oregon during election season adds to the potential suppression of voting, but especially in rural Oregon.

Finally, the costs of setting up polling places and managing invention of a whole new process are not covered in the proposal. Please vote NO on this bill.

Thank you,

Mary Linda Pinkham, Gold Beach, Oregon