

Submitter:

Jacob Morgan

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

My name is Jacob, I'm a 26 year old college student and worker living in Albany. Thank you to the committee for taking the time to listen to my testimony I'll keep my remarks brief.

I've lived in Oregon my whole life. Since turning 18, I've voted in every election, all thanks to Oregon's mail-in voting system.

Del Riley, a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient from my hometown of Albany, was instrumental in organizing and promoting mail-in voting in Oregon. The first mail-in election Riley ran and the first in the state was in Linn County in 1981, it saw a 75% voter turnout — a number that would be difficult to achieve under a system requiring voters to request a ballot in advance.

This would affect young voters especially 18 and 19-year-olds who may still be in high school, living with family, and without a state ID. Either because they haven't needed one yet or can't afford the cost.

For people in places like Port Orford, where Senator Smith is from, renewing an ID can be a challenge. The nearest DMV, according to the State of Oregon's website, is 50 miles away in Coos Bay. That's an hour-long trip each way, just to meet a voting requirement.

I feel it's a huge hurdle money and timewise for citizens of Port Orford to have to drive an hour away just to have or renew a valid I.D., which they may be only needing again because it's required to keep voting every 4 years.

I've heard the argument against mail-in voting that it promotes fraud or corruption. All I'll say is I've had a ballot sent back because my signature was sloppy, to me this shows due diligence by the election officials here in Oregon and I've never felt an election in this state was lost because of corruption at the voting polls.

Lastly, I want to emphasize a few points. Oregon has some of the biggest election turn out rates in the nation and we are one of only 9 states to have it. Because of us having this system that helped people in every part of the state vote I saw us as being an example of something the rest of the nation could strive for, I believe by forcing voters to go to the ballot office on election day (Which is not a holiday by the way so whose to say you'll have the day off) and or jump through a bunch of hoops to be able to vote by mail like many of us have since we started voting is an injustice to the democracy we've cultivated in Oregon.

I believe Mr. Riley, the World War II veteran who helped establish mail-in voting in Oregon, would be deeply saddened if this bill passed. His legacy and service to our country would be destroyed in my eyes by anyone who would pass this.

Thank you once again for hearing my statements and I hope the committee makes the choice Oregon voters already made so many years ago.