Submitter: Kurt Roithinger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

When I registered to vote upon my 18th birthday, I quickly found out that my local polling place was literally across the street from where I lived, which was obviously convenient. Still, it meant on election days I would need to get up an hour earlier and sometimes trudge through the wet grass that surrounded my polling place to exercise my franchise. Nevertheless, I viewed this as my civic duty and did so every election I could.

When I was made aware of Oregon's vote by mail rules, I gave all this some consideration and ultimately sent in an application for vote by mail. This, to me, was a transformative experience. Whereas before I more or less was confined to make decisions based solely on what I found in the voters pamphlet (with my choices jotted down on a piece of paper to bring into the voting booth with me), I now began to clip endorsements and articles, websites and resources and then, when my ballots arrived, I would usually spend the better part of a Sunday afternoon methodically going every candidate and every measure, regardless of how big or little the impact would be on me personally. Vote by mail allowed me to take advantage of more information resources and ultimately, allowed me to make more informed voting decisions.

One might argue that I could have done much the same with in person voting, and to a degree I most certainly did. However, by voting by mail I was able to do so at my time and leisure and thus I felt that it enabled me to devote considerably more time and effort to the process.

Plus, wet socks at 7 am kinda sucked.

Now, as I'm older, I also am far less mobile than I once was. Voting by mail means that, despite my disability, my voice can still be heard. Take that away and it constitutes nothing more than the deliberate nullification of voters in good standing.

I oppose this attempt to turn back the clock for no real reason in the most strenuous manner possible.