

Submitter: Adam Pennavaria
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Oregon's vote by mail system is a tremendously effective, equitable approach to ensuring democracy. We have one of the highest voter turnout rates in the country, greater than 75% as of the 2020 Presidential Election, because voting by mail is a system that works; it meets voters where they are at, provides exceptional educational materials on candidates and measures, and avoids barriers (transportation, time off work, potential for intimidation/interference from nefarious groups) that prevent voters in other states from exercising their constitutional right to make their voices heard. I grew up in a state without a vote by mail system, and when I voted there, it was incredibly frustrating to stand in line for hours, deal with technical malfunctions or miscommunications, take time off of work, and not receive high quality information about the candidates I was voting for.

Oregon's vote by mail system is clearly superior.

Detractors will say that this system is fraudulent, that it leads to inaccurate vote counts, that it skews the voice of the people, etc., - these are lies meant to obfuscate the exemplary, robust system that is Oregon's vote by mail approach. There are numerous safeguards in place to prevent fraud in our vote by mail system, such as signature matching and unique barcodes to ensure that each voter's vote is only counted once. Don't let these lies mislead you.

As an Oregon resident for the last seven years, as a graduate student at Portland State University with a demanding, hectic schedule, and as someone who believes deeply in civil liberties and constitutional rights, I urge the members of this committee to move in opposition to this bill. Repealing vote by mail will silence historically marginalized voices, diminish the perspectives of busy, hard working Oregonians, and ultimately contribute to a regressive shift in our state's political fabric. We are a national model for how to make voting by mail efficient and effective. Please oppose this bill for all of us who rely on this system to make our voices heard.