

Submitter: Don Baldwin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB210.

I have the honor of being a native-born Oregonian, and was schooled in the benefits to democracy accorded by the Oregon System of Initiative, Referendum, and Recall. I am proud of my state's reputation for progressivism, a reputation burnished by the overwhelming passage in 1998 of Measure 60 (a citizen's initiative, it should be noted) establishing Vote By Mail as the standard method for elections in Oregon. Since then Vote By Mail (VBM) has been popular with both major political parties and with the public, because it is safe, easy, efficient, and low-cost.

I have been voting since I was first eligible to do so in 1976, including six years spent on active duty (thanks, absentee voting). Now when election time rolls around I get a text from my county election office telling me my ballot is on the way. I get another one when my returned ballot is received, and yet another when it is certified to be counted.

Now Senator David Brock Smith has introduced this bill in a craven attempt to curry favor with the current occupant of the White House who wants us all to believe that hordes of non-citizens are invading our country and voting in numbers never seen before.

Hogwash.

A solid democratic republic includes all citizens, and should work to make their lives easier and more productive. SB210 does none of those things. It imposes an antiquated system that has been roundly rejected, requires that photo identification be presented to vote (a cost to be borne by voters), and makes no provision that either makes election day a holiday or requires employers to give employees time off work to vote, an additional burden on working families. SB210 also allows voters to request ballots for parties to which they do not belong, allowing the now-unknown possibility of people trying to elect a less desirable opponent for their preferred candidate.

(Of note about identification: the bill states that a Drivers License is an acceptable form of ID; non-citizens can already obtain DLs on Oregon and there is no method for identifying citizenship on them.)

One of the main jobs of any governing body to solve problems. SB210 is a solution

in search of a problem that does not exist. The Legislature has many important issues that need addressing. Please save yourselves time and effort and kill this ridiculous bill now.

Thank you,
Don Baldwin
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