

Submitter: John Welch

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Removing mail-in voting does nothing more than increase the difficulty to vote for those who are sick or infirm, those who live greater distances to polling places such as those living in farming communities and remote areas, and those who are immunocompromised or are otherwise unable to leave their residence to perform their civic duty of voting. In truth, the removal of mail-in voting is nothing more than an infringement on the American promise of liberty and the right to vote. Since 1981, Oregon has been utilizing mail-in voting to an extent, and since 1998, we've utilized it as our primary form of voting. Through this time, any experienced abnormalities in the voting count has been relatively less of a hassle than states that require in-person voting.

To put it frankly, the attempt to rend the power of the vote away from a portion on the constituency through the removal of mail-in voting serves only to stoke the flames of paranoia and fear that pundits and entertainment networks push in an attempt to drive up their own viewership. The people of Oregon are not for the removal of mail-in voting. The people of Oregon take pride in their ability to vote freely, and fairly, no matter the struggles that life has thrown our way.