

Submitter: Melodie Bruhn
On Behalf Of: Ehlers-Danlos disability sufferers
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Greetings, we who are disabled oppose anything that eliminates a broad vote by mail option because having to go to a polling place on one specific day is an overwhelming hurdle for people with chronic health issues and presents an undue burden on everyone for whom traveling on one specific day of the year would be a burden. Chronic illnesses often prevent a person from having control over what they are able to get done on any given day and the great thing about vote by mail is that there's plenty of time to read all the materials consider all the candidates and prepare the ballot and get it mailed over a longer period of time where one can have the time and attention and energy available to do a good job as any citizen should.

Additionally and not speaking just as a person concerned with chronic health issues and disabilities, the lower cost of voting by mail for the society as a whole is much preferable to the greater cost of having to have every voter be transported to a specific polling place that has to be staffed with the voting counted on such a short timeline The overall cost to society as a whole for voting in person on one day is much greater than the vote by mail process and this is something that benefits every Oregonian and makes budgetary sense.

While the state (nor any one county) does not pay the full costs of people transporting themselves to a polling site, the state must cover the costs of operating the polling sites and the costs of having the votes counted in a very narrow time frame. At no time is it in the interest of the people as a whole to run up costs when an efficient effective system already exists.

Primarily we ask that you consider the burden that in person polling puts on disabled people the elderly people who work two jobs and everyone else who would be challenged getting to one specific place on one specific day.

A switch to in-person polling would be one more nail in the coffin of Oregon and another reason to leave the state for somewhere more sensible.

Thank you for your consideration and your thoughtfulness of all people not just Republicans who want in person voting for their own rights but for everyone in the state who deserves a chance to vote within legal and already established means.