

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Mail-in voting has been safe and secure in Oregon for almost as long as I've been alive. It is an essential method for thousands and thousands of Oregonians to vote and participate in our democracy - service members voting from abroad, the elderly, the physically incapable, and those who can't take the time off of work to vote specifically on Election Day will all be affected.

As someone who can vote in person, I believe the right to accessible voting pathways is critical to my own participation in democracy, since one day in the future I will absolutely be someone who needs to vote by mail.

Voting by mail is secure, and voter fraud is more effectively and efficiently fought by expanding access to voting. For example, Oregon's closed primaries have prevented me from casting my vote for candidates I want, and I am a proud independent who has never and will never register as a Democrat or a Republican. In addition, Election Day is not a state holiday with paid time off, and we can look at Australia for examples of how voting can cultivate more participation, trust, and security in our democracy.

I would love to have a state government that takes evidence-based steps towards a more equitable, responsive, and secure voting society, and I believe that some of that impulse is present in this current bill. However it is a BAD idea, and will ultimately be a waste of our tax dollars.