State Legislators,

SB 210 (removing the default right to a mail-in ballot; heretofore referred to as VBM) is the expansion of widespread voter suppression into Oregon and must be opposed. We must make voting more accessible, not less, if we are to include the most eligible voters in our democracy that we can.

Mail-in ballots are the vast majority of how Oregonians participate in elections:
> "In 2022, the Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAE) reported that over 85% of voters in Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Hawaii, and Utah (all states with permanent absentee laws) voted with an absentee ballot." (MIT Election Lab)

Mail-in ballots help voter turnout:
> "The safest conclusion to draw is that extending VBM options increases turnout modestly in midterm and presidential elections but may increase turnout more in primaries, local elections, and special elections." (MIT Election Lab)

Though voter fraud might be more frequent with VBM, voter fraud in *any* form of voting is "***miniscule***" and is often misrepresented or misunderstood by politicians like prominent Republican, Donald Trump:
> "As with all forms of voter fraud, documented instances of fraud related to VBM are rare. However, even many scholars who argue that fraud is generally rare agree that fraud with VBM voting seems to be more frequent than with in-person voting." (MIT Election Lab)
> "All types of voter fraud in U.S. elections is minuscule in comparison to the number of ballots cast, according to elections experts. Taking that into consideration, it is problematic to make comparisons between types of ballot-casting systems and erroneous to claim mail-in voting 'substantially' increases the risk of fraud." (Snopes Fact Check)

There is not enough evidence that VBM increases voter fraud to any effectual level, and therefore SB 210 is an ineffectual bill and may even do harm to voter turnout, thereby diminishing the actuality of democracy in the State of Oregon.

Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Tyler Gilmore
he/him
Portland, OR