

31 March 2025

Oregon Senate Committee on Rules  
& Senator David Smith

RE: House Bill 210

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 210. As a resident of Corvallis for the past nine years, I have greatly appreciated the mail-in ballot process and the way it has reduced barriers to taking part in the civic process.

I came to Oregon for medical residency – a grueling process with long days, often greater than 80 hours per week, and little flexibility. My years in the hospital have illustrated how quickly situations shift and emergent needs arise, and I cannot tell you the number of times that I anticipated a break, a chance to eat a bite and get off my feet for a moment, and for that opportunity be delayed for hours, or even disappear entirely for the day. Medical workers, emergency personnel, and other public servants find ourselves in the same situation, where the limits of in-person business hours and our unpredictable, life-and-death schedules are incompatible. Mail-in voting has been essential for a huge sector of our community as a result.

This, also, is separate from the needs of the broader population, where mail-in voting allows for ample time to complete and return ballots and as a result encourages significant voter turnout, with Oregon one of the leading states in the nation in terms of how many residents participate in elections. Senate Bill 210 would be a move in the wrong direction, dismantling the mail-in voting system and imposing obstructive and restrictive measures that will disenfranchise countless numbers of voters throughout the state.

I oppose House Bill 210.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Terry, DO