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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
Written Testimony Opposing SB 210
Submitted to the Senate Committee on Rules
March 31, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 210 because I believe in growing a democracy that reaches deeper roots, not shallower ones. I believe in widening access, not narrowing it. And I believe that the right to vote should meet people where they are—not where a narrow window on a single day allows them to be.

When I lived in California, I struggled to vote in person. I often worked until 6:30 p.m. and had to commute back across the city just to reach my polling place in time. Those stations had limited hours, limited parking, and long lines. As a working parent, that window between work, childcare, and school responsibilities was impossibly tight. I did what I could—but I also saw how many others simply couldn't. And for those who were sick, disabled, elderly, or just overwhelmed by life's chaos? Voting in person became a barrier, not a right.

That's why I'm proud of Oregon's vote-by-mail system. It doesn't just make voting easier—it makes it more thoughtful, more accessible, more humane. It lets people engage with democracy on their time, not on the government's clock. It recognizes that real lives are messy, busy, unpredictable—and that voting should still be possible within them.

Voting by mail is one of those seeds that roots democracy more deeply into daily life. It meets people with dignity. It acknowledges that change comes not by force, but by care, and by making it possible for more voices to be heard.

SB 210 would strip that away. It would return us to a more brittle, exclusionary model—one that forgets who gets left behind when access is limited to a single method, on a single day, under the guise of "standardization."

We are living through a time of stark contrasts. Some want to pull us back toward fear and restriction. Others want to push forward toward inclusion and participation. The choice before you isn't just about voting logistics—it's about what kind of future we're planting.

Please don't let that future be smaller.

Reject SB 210. Protect Oregon's vote-by-mail system. And remember: democracy grows best when we give it room to breathe.

Thank you,
Mickey Laney-Jarvis