

Submitter:

Sarah Pearson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Over my 40 years I have lived in many states. I have voted, or attempted to vote in all of those states. Due to work schedules, though I was supposedly legally allowed to take off work to vote, I could not financially nor get permission from my employer to do so. Due to bussing issues and lack of owning a vehicle, I missed my voting window. Due to lack of information on bills, positions, or people, I did not always vote for every opportunity or position.

In Oregon, I became a serious voter. I was able to research the options available, make time to commit to knowledge and understanding my options, and was provided a flexible way to submit my vote. I trust this system. I trust this system as I signed my husbands ballot on accident and it was flagged since it was returned and we did not know how to fix it. He had to prove that information inside the ballot was correct and was his and ensure his information was valid. It is not easy to trick the system.

Not only does it provide me, a white female, with capabilities to vote beyond previous states I can see how these provide those who are elderly, disabled, sick or ill on voting day, non car owners, rural folks, minorities, the under educated, those with a lack of time to research on their own, the every man the ability to vote more easily. This is not a pro democrat or pro republican issue. I see it as purely an attempt of silencing the vote for many.

I do not want to be taxed more, I am a small business owner and I am taxed to death, not to mention have very little time, but if I needed to pay for my own voting booklet I would. If I had to pay for my own postage, I would. My ballot is tracked and accounted for every time. I don't think hole punching is as effective. I do not think hiring volunteers to check my ID is as effective. I do not think putting a time window on voting day is as effective.

I found out about this meeting regarding this measure only today. I feel like democracy is being swallowed in this country. Again, not a republican or democrat issue. A reversal in freedom of speech and the right to vote. I am angry this is even being considered. I am disgusted as someone who has voted in many other states that the best method of voting I have partaken in so far is being challenged. I am disappointed in the lack of media coverage. I am sickened by the seemingly effort to slide this under the radar. What is democracy if every voice is not heard?