



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: March 31, 2025
RE: In Opposition of SB 210

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marchel Kaleikini and I am the Political Director for Family Forward and I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210. As an organization that advocates for policies that support families and caregivers, I believe this bill would have a disproportionate impact on mothers and care providers who rely on the flexibility and accessibility of our current vote-by-mail system.

As someone who has worked with families across Oregon, I can attest to the fact that caregivers often bear the brunt of household responsibilities. They are the ones who manage schedules, care for children and loved ones, and balance work and family obligations. Our current vote-by-mail system allows them to participate in democracy without having to choose between their caregiving responsibilities and exercising their right to vote.

By mandating in-person voting as the default method, Senate Bill 210 would create significant barriers for mothers and caregivers who may not have the time or privilege to take off work or find childcare to vote on Election Day. This would disproportionately affect low-income families, rural communities, and communities of color who already face significant obstacles to participating in democracy.

Concerns Regarding Senate Bill 210

- **Reduced Accessibility:** In-person voting requirements would make it harder for caregivers to participate in elections, particularly those with disabilities or limited mobility.
- **Voter Identification Requirements:** The bill's ID requirements would create additional barriers for marginalized communities who may lack the necessary identification. Studies have shown that such requirements can disenfranchise eligible voters, particularly among marginalized communities who may lack the specified forms of ID.
- **Elimination of State-Paid Postage:** Removing state-paid postage on mail-in ballots would place an additional burden on low-income families and caregivers who may struggle to afford postage.

Senate Bill 210 is a step backward for voting accessibility in Oregon, particularly for mothers and care providers. I urge you to oppose this bill and continue supporting policies that make voting as accessible and equitable as possible for all citizens. Our democracy should be inclusive and representative of all voices, not just those who have the privilege of time and resources.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marchel Kaleikini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marchel" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kaleikini".

Marchel Kaleikini
Political Director
Family Forward Oregon

