

Submitter: Alice Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

As a licensed mental health therapist who works with people with mental health struggles and disabilities, mail-in voting significantly reduces barriers for citizens to engage in their civic duty and responsibility to vote. As a therapist I also work with families with children and teens, and mail-in voting allows for the flexibility of an adult to vote that's not dependent on needing childcare, and/or yet another thing to do when the caregiver is already stretched thin.

For me personally, mail-in voting allows me the time to research my vote in a more thoughtful way as I can sit in front of a computer researching while I fill out the ballot. Also, I previously lived in a state where mail-in voting was not an option, and being able to vote conflicted sometimes with being able to earn a liveable wage; voters should not have to choose between being able to vote or work to sustain life if there is already a more simple and refined option with mail-in voting.

A democratic system depends on participation in the democratic process, including voting. Increasing barriers to being able to vote is anti-democratic as it reduces who has the resources/abilities to participate in the voting process. I strongly oppose SB 210.