



To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Oregon Education Association
Re: Oppose SB 210

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

For the record, my name is Kevin Sullivan, and I'm a Public Affairs Consultant of the Oregon Education Association, and I am testifying today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 210 which seeks to make in-person voting on Election Day the standard method for conducting elections in Oregon.

OEA represents nearly 42,000 educators from pre-k to higher education, and you'd be hard-pressed to find any of our hard-working members who wouldn't be negatively impacted by this bill.

Oregon has been a pioneer in implementing a universal vote-by-mail system, which has significantly increased voter participation, streamlined the electoral process, and made Oregon a national leader when it comes to voting accessibility.

When I think about mandating in-person voting as the default method, I don't just think about my members, I think about the thousands of voters I've talked to over the last decade who would be negatively impacted by this bill, including Oregonians with disabilities, elder Oregonians, Oregonians of color, rural Oregonians and low-income Oregonians.

The bill's requirement for voters to present valid government-issued identification when voting in person or requesting a mail-in ballot introduces unnecessary barriers. Studies have shown that such requirements can disenfranchise eligible voters, particularly among marginalized communities who may lack the specified forms of ID.

Another way that this bill would make voting less accessible is that it would remove the provision for state-paid postage on mail-in ballots. The whole point for paying for postage was to make voting more accessible for low-income Oregonians. Removing this provision places an additional burden on voters that could deter participation.

Senate Bill 210 represents a significant step backward for voting accessibility in Oregon. By dismantling the proven vote-by-mail system and imposing restrictive measures, this legislation threatens to disenfranchise countless voters and erode the inclusive democracy that Oregonians have long championed. OEA urges you to oppose SB 210 and to continue supporting policies that make voting as accessible and equitable as possible for all citizens.

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