

Submitter:

Sarah Lewis

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I oppose SB210 because I believe our democracy is strongest when voting is easily accessible to all eligible citizens. Voting is the best, most democratic way making our voices heard and gives a chance for 100's of thousands of Oregonians to have their say together on a regular basis. Oregon's vote-by-mail system has been secure and easy for voters to access. We have had little voter fraud and high eligible voter participation. Personally, my decisions on the ballot have been better informed because I can take my time considering the choices and do research if I have any questions before making my final decisions for each initiative and candidate. I also have missed fewer elections because I could fill out the ballot at home and could either mail it in or put it in a county drop box. I then could check and make sure it was received. The truth about voter fraud is that there have been very, very few cases; and at no time has voter fraud involving vote by mail changed any election or nullified the rights of all the thousands of eligible voters. But if you make voting more difficult by requiring people to take extra steps to vote by absentee ballot, full time caregivers, people who have mobility issues, people who lack access to transportation, and people who do not have work flexibility are less likely to be able to make their voices heard thru their votes. I think their votes are important and they should not have to take extra steps to have their voices heard. We need to continue to uphold the rights of ALL Oregon's eligible voters to encourage each citizen to vote by maintaining a robust, secure, universal vote by mail system. The efforts of the state should be directed towards determining if our current system LEAVES OUT any eligible voters, rather than making it more difficult for voters to participate, which SB210 would do.