

Submitter: Matthew Geiger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

As someone deeply committed to serving our community's most vulnerable through my work at a local nonprofit (William Temple House) in Portland, Oregon, I am outraged by the introduction of Senate Bill 210. This bill's push to eliminate mail-in voting and enforce strict in-person voting requirements is not just a policy shift—it's a direct assault on the rights of those living in poverty and individuals with disabilities.

Every day, I witness the struggles of those who can barely access nutritious food due to physical limitations or financial hardship. Now, lawmakers propose adding the burden of navigating inaccessible polling stations and obtaining government-issued IDs to their already overwhelming challenges. This is not just an inconvenience; it's an insidious attempt to silence the voices of those who are already marginalized.

Oregon has long been a beacon of democratic inclusion, with a mail-in voting system that empowers all citizens to participate in our elections. Dismantling this system in favor of restrictive measures is a betrayal of our state's values and a blatant move to disenfranchise those who are less privileged.

We must recognize this bill for what it is: an attack on democracy and an attempt to erode the hard-earned rights of our fellow Oregonians. I implore every citizen to stand against SB 210 and fight for the preservation of accessible and fair elections in our state.

I urge you to thoroughly reject this bill. And shame, deep staining shame, on anyone who supports this.