

Submitter: Sarah Hunsberger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I have never submitted testimony on a legislative bill before but I feel so strongly about protecting mail voting that I am compelled to write. I oppose SB 210 and am baffled by why lawmakers would want to eliminate it. Eliminating vote by mail would: —Go against the will of Oregon voters, who approved a ballot measure in the 1990s requiring vote by mail. I voted yes on the original vote-by-mail measure and do not want the legislature to undo my vote.

—Make voting less accessible to those lacking the transportation, child care, or flexible work schedules needed to be able to vote in person. This is likely to lower voter turnout and weaken the voices of lower income residents, single parents, elderly voters, and others with limited resources.

—Make it more difficult for voters to study the issues and make informed choices when filling out their ballots. Being able to fill out a ballot at my own pace with the voter's pamphlet and other resources at my fingertips is one of my favorite parts of mail voting. This is especially important in a state that has frequent, complex ballot measures referred to voters.

I also like that mail ballots preserve a paper record of our votes that can serve as a backup if recounts are needed or technology fails. I much prefer a paper ballot over a touch screen.

I know there is a great deal of noise being made nationally to inflate fears about fraud, irregularities, etc., in mail balloting, but I trust the vote by mail process. This bill is an attempt to undermine trust in the government, make voting less accessible, and possibly exclude already marginalized populations. No system is perfect and errors will happen, but please don't scrap a genuine bright spot in our democracy.