

Submitter:

Amanda Woods

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I strongly oppose the removal of the option to vote by mail. This is clearly another attempt to make it harder for people in marginalized groups to vote. These are the same groups that are being targeted by the current presidency and its policies.

Every American citizen should have their right to vote protected. This includes people who cannot reasonably be expected to be able to physically come during a short period of open polling. These people include those with less money, who may not have adequate transportation, may not be able to leave their job for the day or a large portion of the day, and may not have access to childcare that they can afford. It is a fact that people in racial minorities are more likely to struggle financially due to historical and current inequities. This means that removing the option to vote by mail will negatively affect more people of color than it will white people, which is unacceptable. This also includes people with disabilities. People with limited mobility or the inability to stand in a line for a long period of time, people who are immunocompromised and can't be in a large group of people, people who are bedridden, and many others will have their right to vote stripped away if the policy is changed so they have to physically be there during that day in order to vote.

The media has placed a heavy emphasis on the unsubstantiated claim that voting by mail will increase cases of voter fraud. Myself, I am more concerned about fraud that may be perpetrated by the people gathering and tallying votes and by those in control of voting machines.

Please respect the civil rights of all Americans by working to ensure that we can all continue to have more opportunities to vote and have our voices heard. To this end, please protect Oregonians' ability to vote by mail.