

Submitter:

Erika Donohoe

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I was born and raised in Oregon, I grew up in Clackamas County, and I now live in Portland. I have watched my family vote by mail and voted by mail my whole life. I love receiving my ballot weeks in advance and taking my time to consult recorded interviews with candidates, the voters pamphlet, and trusted people in my life to evaluate who I choose to represent me. I take my vote very seriously.

I only really looked into what polling booths actually were (I was naive, I know) after a conversation with a man visiting here from Pakistan. When I learned that so much of the world lived without mail voting I was horrified. There are so many logistical limitations to voting in person, and in this country we do not have required time off work to go to vote, even in places without vote by mail. It makes no sense. Some countries are more advanced than the United States, mandating a national holiday with required time off work to go to the polls. Some countries make it illegal to not vote - which requires in no uncertain terms that all people are helped to avoid criminalization. I support those policies. We in Oregon, while unable to take time off work to vote, enjoy an advanced method of voting compared to so many communities around our nation and the world, which allows us to vote when we have time available rather than struggle and suffer to vote at a time and place that may be very difficult to be available for. Even if our nation made voting mandatory and set aside the whole day for polling, it would still be harder to vote in person than by mail. I am proud of our current voting policy and the culture that created and loves it. Don't you dare touch it.