

Submitter:

Emma Ulven

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As a nurse in Oregon, I see people during some of the worst times of their lives. I see how complicated, unpredictable, and fragile life can be for our elders, our most vulnerable neighbors, and even people who may never expect to be facing certain challenges. Requiring in-person voting assumes that Oregon residents are healthy, have transportation, have childcare, and have the time and physical ability to wait in long voting lines. This is a huge barrier for some in our communities, and as a nurse, I do not feel that it is fair to penalize Oregon residents for the complexity of our lives. Should my patients not have the right to vote just because they are enduring long stays in the hospital that keep them from getting to the ballot box? Not only does this affect my patients, but it affects working parents, those whose work may take them out of state, those in poor health or with different physical abilities, and many others. Mail-in voting was an incredible step forward for Oregon. If you really work for your constituents, please consider our preferences when making this decision.