

Submitter:

Louise Osborne

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As a mission critical healthcare worker at a Portland hospital, I am deeply opposed to this measure. Many of us have to work anywhere between 10 to 16 hour shifts on an unpredictable basis. We are often providing critical care and cannot simply leave work to go to a polling place. If voting is restricted to in-person on a single day, many of us would be forced to choose between our patients and being able to vote. Since the vast majority of us would never abandon our post or our patients, we will instead have our vote and our voice taken from us. This is not representative government. My profession makes a decent salary in Oregon, and we pay our taxes. If vote by mail is taken from us, many of us will be taxed without representation, since we will be prevented from being able to vote consistently. Taxation without representation is one of the fundamental reasons for the original struggle for American independence. It is sickening to me that any of our representatives in the Oregon Legislature could be supportive of this bill. It is against one of the founding principles of our nation. Vote by mail is accessible, secure, and our voter registration system in Oregon already requires that voters be citizens. I know that many other workers in other industries face similar challenges, many people would have to risk being fired in order to miss or leave work to vote. In the current economy many people have to work long hours for unsupportive employers, sometimes at multiple jobs, just to keep their families houses and fed. This bill would also disenfranchise them, and take away their voice. True voter fraud is rare, but the number of citizens that could lose access to voting in Oregon if this bill passes is unthinkable large. I urge you all to vote no on this bill. It's bad for Oregonians, and bad for democracy. Vote by mail should be available to ALL Americans!