

Submitter: Ashley Hernandez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I'm a veteran with mobility issues. When I was active duty I lived and voted in Texas. Prior to my injury I'd stand in line for hours in the hot sun, at a school or a church, waiting to vote. The first time I tried to vote I was unable, because in order to vote there you'd have to go to a very specific location, and I didn't know that so I couldn't vote. I know Texas deliberately makes it difficult to vote, and I cannot begin to explain the excitement I felt the first time I received my Oregon ballot in the mail after I relocated here upon my honorable discharge from the military. It's truly a fantastic system we have in this state. Voting in Texas was intentionally difficult and it felt like the officials there didn't really want people to vote. In Oregon I feel like I'm included and encouraged to vote; I feel like I'm truly part of the Oregon community. It's bullshit that anyone would even consider going from mail in voting to standing in a line for hours on end, unless you're trying to discourage people from voting of course.