

Submitter: Joshua Adams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Voter participation is the life blood of democracy. A healthy democracy must show its citizens that they are a vital and important part of its entire legislative process. I have to admit, it's embarrassing that many of us have to defend mail in voting so often. It is abundantly clear that mail in voting has been a wild success in every state that participates. Cases of voter fraud are minuscule. Participation numbers are higher. People who may have trouble with mobility, availability, or financial stress are ALL able to have their voices heard. In 2023 Oregon led the nation in voter turnout, and when we haven't we're always high on the list. I'm proud of that fact.

I can't say with certainty what the motivations are of the people who keep trying to end mail in voting. Verifiable facts and statistics show us that our voting system is successful. I can only come to the conclusion that this is an attempt to make sure that only certain people can vote. No matter the affiliation of those desired voters, it is indisputable that an attempt to limit access to voting is an attack on our democracy.

Everybody's voice matters. Every vote matters, and we should be doing our hardest to make sure everyone is able to cast that vote with little inconvenience. Mail in voting is a positive step forward in assuring that everyone's voice is heard.