

Submitter: Claire Sarnowski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bunyan, and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,?

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB210, As an Oregon resident currently attending college out of state in Massachusetts, I rely on vote-by-mail to ensure my voice is heard in elections back home, and am proud that my state uses this system to make participation in democracy more accessible. This system is essential not only for students like me, but also for countless other Oregonians who may face obstacles to voting in person.

For many individuals, voting in person is not a feasible option. Those with mobility limitations, chronic health conditions, demanding work schedules, transportation barriers, depend on vote-by-mail to exercise their fundamental right to vote. Requiring most voters to cast their ballots in person, while limiting access to mail-in voting, disproportionately impacts people with disabilities, seniors, caregivers, hourly workers, and rural residents who may live far from voting stations.

?Based on my experience sending a ballot from my college campus, Oregon's vote-by-mail process is secure, transparent, and easy to use. I have never had any concerns about my ballot, and appreciate the opportunity to track its status and verify that my vote was counted. There is not evidence that vote-by-mail is less secure than in-person voting, and adding an extra barrier would only make this process difficult for Oregon voters.

Oregon has consistently been one of the leading states in voter turnout, and I believe a significant reason for this is the accessibility of vote-by-mail. Our system has been a model for secure, efficient, and accessible elections, and there is no reason to undermine a process that has worked so well for our state.

Voting should be as accessible as possible to every eligible citizen, and making it more difficult through unnecessary restrictions is not the way to better elections. I urge you to oppose this legislation and uphold Oregon's commitment to fair and inclusive voting practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.