

Written Testimony in Opposition to OR SB 210

Oregon's 100% vote-by-mail (VBM) program has been in place since 2000 after being "overwhelmingly" (OPB, 06/19/2020) approved by the voters in 1998. Vote-by-mail works: In 1998, per the Oregon Secretary of State, 41 percent of registered voters in Oregon were permanent absentee voters. In the May Primary election that year, in-person poll turnout was 22 percent and absentee voting was 53 percent. Since 2000, Oregon's VBM turnout for general elections has generally topped 65 percent and was a whopping 86 percent in 2004!

There are numerous safeguards in place to ensure ineligible persons do not receive ballots and so cannot vote.

Vote-by-mail also ensures people with disabilities are able to participate fully as proud, responsible citizens of Oregon and the U.S.: Persons with disabilities (my brother being among them) can vote in the safety and convenience of their residences. Not to be able to vote is to be denied a fundamental right, yea, responsibility and privilege – of all Americans – and Oregonians – under the Constitution.

Respectfully yours,

Jean Shepherd
Tigard, OR