

Submitter:

Susan Welsh

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

SB210 will undermine the progress Oregon has made in making voting more accessible to all citizens. By imposing restrictions that make it harder for people without transportation to reach polling places, this bill will likely disenfranchise those who are already at a disadvantage, particularly low-income, rural, and disabled voters. For the sake of democracy, SB210 should be rejected. I have lived in states that required in-person voting and my experience is that it makes voting much more difficult and for many, impossible. For example, polling places are often not open during hours that fit working people's schedules. The additional barrier of difficult access to polling places, particularly in more rural or underserved areas, exacerbates this issue. This is especially harmful to hourly workers, single parents, and others who have inflexible schedules, as they may have no feasible way to participate in the democratic process if they have to commute long distances during working hours. Please protect our mail-in voter rights.