



Angela Trinh
Senate Committee on Rules
RE: Support SB 776

March 11th, 2021

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Angela and I am a student in Portland. I am part of the Next Up Youth Action Team and am passionate about youth having their voices heard. Because of this, I support SB 776 which will allow 16 and 17 year olds to participate in school district elections.

I turned 18 this year, and as I crossed this milestone towards adulthood, I began working a new job in order to help pay for my college expenses. In a few more months, I will leave home to attend school in another state. These are big life changes for me because I won't have as much stability as I do while living at home and being supported by my mother. Many of the 18 year olds that I know are also experiencing similar life transitions, so it is clear that 16 is a much better age to establish a new habit, such as voting, rather than 18.

Studies show that younger, first-time voters are much more likely to create a habit of voting throughout their lifetime. I strongly believe this to be true, and have seen this first hand. My sister moved to another country when she turned 18, and because of this, she was confused about the process of casting an absentee ballot and ultimately, was unable to vote or have her voice heard in local elections.

Lowering the voting age to 16 for school district elections will help foster a generation that will habitually vote throughout their whole lives. With that in mind, I respectfully ask for committee members to pass SB 776.

Sincerely,
Angela Trinh