

Submitter: June Sanchez
On Behalf Of: Oregon Teens Suffrage Association
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

As a public school teacher and member of the Oregon Teens Suffrage Association, I have seen firsthand the passion and dedication that many of our young people have for political issues and for creating positive change in their communities.

Lowering the voting age to 16 would give young people a powerful voice in our democracy and would help to foster a culture of civic engagement and participation. Many 16- and 17-year-olds are already legally allowed to pay taxes, drive, be emancipated, work up to 44 hours per week, and be charged criminally as adults, and 17 year olds can enlist in the military, but they are not currently able to vote on the issues that affect their daily lives.

By expanding the right to vote to young people, we can help to create a more inclusive and representative democracy that truly reflects the diversity and energy of our communities. Young people from all backgrounds and walks of life should have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to make their voices heard.

I am also proud to be a member of the Oregon Teens Suffrage Association, a group of young people who are passionate about expanding voting rights to all Oregonians. Our group has been working hard to mobilize young people and to educate them about the importance of voting and civic engagement. We strongly believe that young people have the power to create positive change in our communities, and we urge you to support HJR 20 and to give them the tools and opportunities they need to make a difference.

In closing, I urge you to support HJR 20 and to help create a more vibrant, inclusive, and representative democracy for all Oregonians. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.