

Submitter: Kolby Luis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

Our young people, including 16- and 17-year-olds, continue to fight and advocate for so many issues that they are passionate about from gun safety to the climate crisis. They have been tremendously engaged on policies affecting their lives and their futures. Lowering the voting age would recognize their contribution to our society and ensure that their voices are heard on issues that affect them directly. The planet depends on the action we take now to mitigate the effects of climate change, and it is our younger generation that will face the long-term consequences of our political challenges – like stymied action on climate change, gun violence, and reproductive rights. By lowering the voting age, we empower young people to have a say in the policies that will affect them for decades to come. 16- and 17-year-olds are engaged, smart, and capable of casting informed votes. They have demonstrated their understanding of complex issues and their willingness to engage in political discourse. By allowing them to vote, we give them a sense of ownership over their future and a greater sense of responsibility as active citizens. They deserve the right to vote.