

Submitter: Matthew Hartunain
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

I have to say that I find the argument "I oppose HJR 20 because children are not educated enough from my experience, the last thing 16-year-olds are thinking about is politics and unless they have good parents they won't know what's really going on. They can't make educated decisions about important issues affecting the people in Oregon." to be quite weak. The claim that 16-year-olds are not educated enough to make informed decisions about politics is simply unfounded. In fact, there are plenty of adults who are woefully uninformed about politics, but we don't use that as a reason to deny them the right to vote.

The comment about good parents being necessary to educate young people about politics comes across as patronizing and condescending. It implies that only certain families are capable of raising informed and engaged citizens, which is simply not true.

At the end of the day, the question we should be asking ourselves is whether we want to encourage young people to be engaged citizens who are invested in the future of their communities, or whether we want to shut them out of the political process altogether. I believe that the former is the right choice, and I urge you to reconsider your opposition to lowering the voting age.