

Submitter: Herbert Hooker  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

I strongly believe that empowering young people to participate in the political process is not only a matter of equity and justice but also a critical step towards building a stronger, more inclusive, and more vibrant democracy. By giving young people a voice in the political process, we have seen increased civic engagement, political awareness, and participation in elections. We have also seen young people bring fresh perspectives, energy, and innovative ideas to the public debate, which has helped to invigorate our democracy. The right to vote is a fundamental human right that should not be denied on the basis of age. Young people are fully capable of making informed decisions about politics, and research has shown that they are more likely to develop lifelong voting habits if they start voting at a younger age. In my own life, I have witnessed the transformative power of young people in shaping the future of their communities and their countries. I have seen them lead movements for change, demand accountability from their leaders, and inspire us all with their courage and vision. I therefore urge you to support HJR 20 and to join me in standing with young people across Oregon and across the world who are working to build a better future for themselves and for generations to come. By empowering them to exercise their right to vote, you will be contributing to a stronger and more vibrant democracy for all.