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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

I understand the opposition's concerns as a parent, but it's important to remember that not all teenagers are the same. Many 16 and 17-year-olds are mature, informed and passionate about the issues that affect their communities. And why deny them the opportunity to make their voices heard just because some teenagers might not be as interested in politics as others? Besides, teenagers are affected by the decisions made in state and local elections just as much as adults are. They have a stake in the outcome and deserve to have a say in the democratic process. It's time to give them that opportunity. And let's not forget that we trust 16-year-olds with other important responsibilities such as driving and working, so why not trust them with the responsibility of voting? I'm sorry, but the argument that teenagers are too concerned with their friends, school, boys, and the latest trends is simply condescending and disrespectful. Teenagers are capable of caring about more than just superficial things, and it's insulting to suggest otherwise. In fact, studies have shown that teenagers are often more politically engaged than adults. They are active on social media, they attend rallies and protests, and they care deeply about the future of their communities and their country. So let's not underestimate their intelligence or their passion for making a difference. Lowering the voting age to 16 in state and local elections is a common-sense reform that will empower young people and strengthen our democracy. It's time to trust our teenagers and give them a voice in the decisions that will shape their lives and the lives of future generations.