

Submitter: Deanna Wartenbee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

I'm sorry, but I have to disagree with the opposition. If we can trust 16-year-olds to drive a car, pay taxes, and even join the military, why can't we trust them to vote? It's not fair to deny them the right to participate in the democratic process. With all due respect, it seems like they're underestimating the intelligence and engagement of young people today. Studies have shown that young people are more politically active and informed than ever before, and many 16-year-olds are already involved in the community and social issues. It's interesting that they bring up maturity as a concern. If we're talking about maturity, perhaps we should also consider the maturity of our current elected officials. Some of them seem to lack basic empathy and emotional intelligence, yet they are able to vote and make decisions that impact millions of people I have to ask - do they really believe that only 'knowledgeable' people should be able to vote? That's a dangerous path to go down. Our democracy is based on the principle that every citizen has a right to vote, regardless of their background or education level. It's clear that they don't have faith in young people. But maybe if we gave them a chance to participate in the political process, they could surprise us. After all, it's their future that's at stake in these elections.