

21 February 2023

House Committee on Rules

Re: House Bill 3206

Dear Chair Representative Fahey, Vice-Chairs Representatives Kropf and Breese-Iverson, and members of the Committee;

In the late 1960's we were able to get the voting age lowered to 18 years because 18 year olds were being drafted into the armed forces. We were old enough to die for our country but not old enough to vote for our representatives. In that case, lowering the voting age was the right thing to do.

What could possibly be a valid reason for letting a 16 or 17 year olds, who have barely begun to experience life, and most likely are easily susceptible to manipulation, vote?

Currently in Oregon:

- a person under 18 years is not required to register with the Selective Service System.
- a person under 18 years may only get a provisional driver's license.
- a person under 21 years of age cannot purchase a handgun.
- a person under 21 years of age cannot purchase any tobacco products.
- a person under 21 years of age cannot purchase alcohol products.

There are reasons for the above. It's known as immaturity, the reason used to put the above restrictions in place.

Just what has changed to make an adolescent now somehow qualified to judge who may or may not be fit to lead our school boards which leadership has a direct affect on property taxes we pay. The idea is ludicrous.

I am strongly opposed to HB 3206 and urge the Committee to table this ridiculous piece of legislature.

Representative Gamba and Senator Jama both support this bill and the amendments to House Bill 2001, which refers to a "youth experiencing homelessness" as a person who is at least 14 years of age but not more than 24 years of age...." which acknowledges they believe that youth lasts through the age of twenty-four!

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner