

Submitter: Naomi Hemstreet  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3206

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, members of the committee,

My name is Naomi Hemstreet. I am 16 years old and attend high school in Portland, Oregon.

I support HB 3206 because it is time that youth have a voice in the politics that affect them. School boards make decisions about school budgets, instructional and support programs, faculty salaries and benefits, and other decisions about our educations.

Every day, I go to class in overcrowded classrooms in a school that cannot serve the needs of the over two thousand students that attend it. I attend a school where students don't always get access to the support services they need, where 504 plans are not always honored.

The truth is, students are very much a part of the school system, and we deserve to have a voice in school board elections. At this point in our lives, being a student is our main focus. We spend thirty five hours a week in school buildings, yet we have almost no influence over our education. We are told over and over again that school is preparation for becoming an adult, yet we do not get the right to vote like all the adults around us.

Please support HB 3206 so 16 and 17 year olds have a say in how the structures and systems we are a part of function. We deserve to have the right to vote in school board elections so that we can make choices about our education.

Thank you.  
Naomi Hemstreet  
Portland, HD45