

Submitter: Nadzeya Pahodzina  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HCR18

I am a first year law student at Lewis & Clark, recipient of the 2019 Classroom Law Project High School Scholarship. I am a Mock Trial Scoring Judge, We The People Constitution Judge, Courthouse Tour Guide, and event volunteer for the Classroom Law Project. I have taken on these roles during my first year of law school because of how integral they were in my young adulthood. Civics education broke an unrealistic educational and career barrier for me. Learning about the Constitution in high school showed me that every citizen is capable of interpretation if put in the work. Competing in Mock Trial as a law student, I developed public speaking, leadership, and teamwork skills that gave me the confidence to pursue the career of an attorney. Every civic education initiative adapts to more and more students. Where one student isn't comfortable in We The People activities, they are encouraged to participate in a Courthouse Tour where they realize how versatile and complex the justice and legal system is. With more initiatives and programs, we are diversifying the class of future civic leaders and well rounded leaders and citizens in general. This year, judging the We The People Competition, I witnessed so much diversity that my jaw was on the floor. Looking back at my experience, I was scared to participate because I thought I wasn't smart enough and didn't fit the mold of a civic competition kid. And here I am years later, standing in my high school, witnessing African American and disability students compete. It melts my heart from happiness.

Please give HCR 18 a yes vote. Thank you for supporting civics education in Oregon.