

Submitter: Joni Zimmerman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

Dear Members of the Oregon House Committee on Rules:

I strongly support HB 3012 allowing 16 and 17 year olds who are registered to vote to vote in school district elections. Young people in this age group are the ones most affected by district policies, and they are definitely old enough to be aware of the issues and make sound decisions.

I really love this bill - it is exciting to me to see bills like this that make so much sense in a democracy. Plus, getting 16 and 17 year olds active in their local government will get them in the habit of being involved and voting for their entire lives.

I am old enough to remember when my generation fought hard to get 18 year olds the right to vote. We figured if our friends were old enough to get drafted and sent off to be killed in a war that nobody wanted that we should all at least have a say in the matter. I think the same reasoning applies here. While it is not a life and death matter like the Vietnam war was, district decisions could certainly have a major life impact on high school students.

I urge you to pass this bill!

Thank you so much for the work you do.