

**Milo McDonald**

House Committee on Rules

RE: Strong Support for HB 3012

**26 February 2025**

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Pham and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Milo McDonald, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to testify in strong support of the Student Voice and Democracy Act, HB 3012, which will allow registered 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local school board elections, giving students a voice in their education and strengthening our democracy.

We have an opportunity to strengthen our democracy by giving students a voice in the decisions that directly impact their education. Students care deeply about their education yet don't have a say in ensuring school boards are responsive to the needs of all students. The Student Voice and Democracy Act will amplify the voices of thousands of students and keep decision-makers accountable.

By allowing students to vote on who will serve on school boards, the elected board members are much more likely to actually be representative of student wants and needs. By empowering students to vote in school board elections at 16 and 17 years old, they will learn the crucial skills of elective, participatory democracy. Therefore, when it comes time for these same students to vote in state and federal elections at 18, they will know how to research candidates, voice their concerns and wishes, and know that their vote matters in determining political outcomes.

Student voices matter. I strongly urge the House Committee on Rules to pass HB 3012.

Thank You,

Milo McDonald