

RE: Support HB 3012  
House Committee on Rules

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

My name is Kristen, and I live in Beaverton, 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.

Often I see how students' voices, including mine, get dismissed because we are perceived as immature or students who lack knowledge. I first want to say how inaccurate that is because the truth is that students like me are incredibly intelligent. We work jobs and pay taxes just as adults do. Moreover, this act directly impacts students and our learning environments which is why we must get a say in school board elections. Additionally, with the new civic class requirement in my district, we have grown to become increasingly knowledgeable about our government and how to be an active and engaged citizen.

Therefore, I am in huge support of The Student Voice and Democracy Act because my peers and I should be allowed to be part of decision-making that affects our future. Please vote yes and take part in fully supporting students.

Thank you,  
Kristen Le