

RE: Support HB 3012
House Committee on Rules

2/12/25

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

My name is Max, and I am a high school student. 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.

I believe that people should be treated with respect & equality, & I know that the world can change for the better. But I fear that by not allowing the voices of my generation to be heard, it reinforces the systems of oppression & discrimination we as young people are fighting against. By not focusing on the issues that students bring to the table, it brushes aside the real problems at our school. Those problems being a lack of equitable funding, & discrimination based on race, gender, & class from all levels of public school. To change oppressive systems we must strike at the heart of them. That being said, the absence of our voice over who is going to impact our daily life at school on a social & economic level.

I support The Student Voice & Democracy Act because it gives me & my peers the right to vote on those who affect our future. Please vote yes on this bill.

Thank you,

Max