

RE: Support HB 3012
House Committee on Rules

2/11/2025

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

My name is Xavier Juarez and I live in Troutdale. 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.

In my school environment, me and peers alike, are able to recognize the many issues that press our campus, like the dirty classrooms, or cluttered bathrooms that each of us can speak about. Yet our thoughts and concerns are to no effect because they are never heard. Through the implementation of the Student voice and Democracy Act, we become a step closer to creating the community people can look forward to coming to each day.

I am hopeful that you will support the passing of HB 3012 to allow 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote in school board elections so we can ensure fair representation for the problems that occur at our schools.

Thank you,

Xavier Juarez