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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

HB 3012, allowing minors to VOTE for any elected position that affects society is a terrible idea.

In the United States, minors (under 18) are restricted from doing the following, and for good reason.

1. Vote in elections.
2. Purchase or possess tobacco and vaping products
3. Purchase or consume alcohol
4. Buy or own a firearm
5. Gamble
6. Join the military
7. Sign legal contracts
8. Get married
9. Buy or rent property
10. Apply for a credit card
11. Get a tattoo or body piercing
12. Purchase certain over-the-counter medications
13. Work full-time without restrictions
14. Watch or purchase R-rated movies in theaters
15. Buy fireworks
16. Be tried as an adult in most criminal cases
17. Adopt a child or become a legal guardian
18. Open their own checking or savings account
19. Book a hotel room in most locations
20. Donate blood
21. Purchase spray paint or certain chemicals
22. Apply for a business license
23. Serve on a jury in court
24. Rent a car
25. Adopt a pet

Allowing minors to make decisions for others—such as voting or serving on elected boards—poses several risks to society, primarily due to their cognitive development, experience level, and susceptibility to external influences.

#### Risks to Society

Underdeveloped Critical Thinking & Judgment – Minors, particularly those under 18,

are still developing the ability to analyze complex issues, understand long-term consequences, and resist emotional or impulsive decision-making. This could lead to short-sighted or reactionary policy decisions.

**Increased Susceptibility to Influence** – Younger individuals are more easily swayed by peer pressure, social media, and authority figures, which could allow special interest groups or manipulative influences to exploit their decision-making.

**Lack of Experience & Knowledge** – Many important policy decisions require an understanding of economics, governance, history, and law, which minors generally haven't had the education or life experience to fully grasp. This could result in poorly informed decisions.

**Emotional vs. Rational Decision-Making** – Studies show that younger individuals tend to make choices based on emotions rather than logic. In governance, emotion-driven decisions without considering unintended consequences could lead to policies that feel good in the short term but are harmful in the long run.

**Potential for Instability** – If large numbers of minors were given voting or policymaking power, elections and policies could become more erratic, driven by trends, fads, or youthful idealism rather than long-term stability and practicality.

#### **Brain Development & Decision-Making**

Neuroscience confirms that the human brain does not fully develop until around age 25.

The prefrontal cortex, responsible for rational thinking, impulse control, and weighing long-term consequences, is still developing well into early adulthood.

The amygdala, which processes emotion and reward-seeking behavior, is more dominant in minors, leading to more impulsive, less calculated decision-making.

Studies in psychology and neuroscience confirm that younger individuals struggle with long-term risk assessment, which is crucial for making responsible policy choices.

#### **VOTE NO ON HB 3012**

While minors can be engaged in civic education and participate in discussions, entrusting them with direct decision-making power over society before their cognitive and reasoning abilities have fully matured could pose significant risks. Responsible governance requires wisdom, experience, and rational judgment, which develop over time as individuals transition into adulthood.