

Submitter: Tammy Mittig

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

I strongly oppose this bill. Teenagers are highly susceptible to undue influence and are years away from having the neurocognitive developmental maturity to be making decisions that will have lasting impacts beyond their years in a specific high school (up to 2 years after they graduate for a 4 years school board term).

These decisions impact not just their education but that of thousands of other students. 16-17 year olds do not have the executive functioning to foresee or consider all of the ramifications of their choices, which is why they are not allowed legal authority to sign contracts.

Nor are children paying the taxes used to support schools. Tax payers deserve to right to be the final authority on how their tax dollars are spent. If tax payers are not receiving a good return on their investments the one recourse they have is with their vote. By deluding the impact of the vote by allowing non-tax payers a voice in this process you are telling your constituents that their vote does not matter.

Students should not be getting pressured at school for political motivations. Oregon schools are in an educational achievement crisis, ranking 49/50 in the US. Time at school needs to be focused on improving academic success to make Oregon's youth more competitive for employment and better able to complete nationally and internationally with their peers when they go on to higher education.

I urge you to vote no on this bill.