

Submitter: Danny Cage

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

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

My name is Danny Cage, and I live in Portland. I am a college student and former and proud public school student, son of an educator, and I serve on my local School Board. 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 more accountable to the people who matter in these elections, including our students and young people.

When I was honored to be elected to the Multnomah Education Service District, I was finishing high school and was 18 years old. My age and on-the-ground connection to public education as a student helped fill in the gaps with my fellow board members and added great value to my service to public education, largely due to my having just graduated high school. We have to give young people political autonomy to create the best outcomes for themselves as many Oregonians who are voters experience. The biggest investment a government and a democracy can make is on its youth, I believe this Act will strengthen our democracy

I ran for office to bring my passion and lived experience to public education. I dream of a day every Oregonian feels valued in our democracy and for that I urge you to pass the Student Voice and Democracy Act out of committee.

Thank you,  
Danny Cage