

Submitter: Paul DeStefano

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

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Measure, Appointment or Topic: Support HB 3012

Submit Testimony here by March 3rd at 8am

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

My name is Paul DeStefano, and I live in Aloha. 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.

I was living in Salem when a similar measure appeared on the ballot. The proposed new law would lower the voting age from 21 to 18. I supported this measure, but my parents did not. We had a small argument about it. Later, my parents called me just to say they had reconsidered their position and apologized to me for their previous opposing the measure. They realized that people as young as 18 deserve a say in our governance. They can join the military, so they should be able to vote.

HB 3012 solves a similar problem for our young adults, and is the correct choice for the people of Oregon. I urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you,

Paul DeStefano