

Submitter: Belinda Coalman  
On Behalf Of: Homeowner  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

The National Institute of Mental Health states: " The brain finishes developing and maturing in the mid-to-late 20s. The part of the brain behind the forehead, called the prefrontal cortex, is one of the last parts to mature. This area is responsible for skills like planning, prioritizing, and making good decisions."

It's common and clear knowledge that 16- and 17-year-olds do not have a mature capacity to make the best decisions. For this reason they have higher auto insurance rates, can't buy a firearm, can't drink alcohol or nicotine products. Giving them a vote opens up the possibility of other activities they are not mature enough for. Putting them in charge of educational policy would be detrimental to fulfilling the goals of preparation for adulthood.