

Submitter: Michaela Hammerson
On Behalf Of: Mother of Three
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3012 as a mother of three boys, including a 16-year-old son who is still finding his way as he grows up. I am deeply concerned about the idea of allowing lobbying in our schools. Our children are vulnerable, and I believe this proposal opens the door to undue influence in a place where they should be protected, not targeted.

As a parent, I've watched Oregon's education system become increasingly politicized. Teachers already hold significant sway over impressionable young minds, and too often, I've seen classrooms used to push agendas rather than foster independent thinking. Adding lobbying to this environment is a step too far—it risks turning our schools into battlegrounds for special interests instead of safe spaces for learning. My 16-year-old son and his brothers deserve an education focused on knowledge and growth, not political manipulation.

I'm also troubled by Oregon's election processes, which I believe are already unsafe and leave too much room for corruption. The idea of ballot harvesting involving young, likely uninformed juveniles is alarming. Teenagers like my son are still developing their understanding of the world—they're not ready to be pawns in a system that could exploit their inexperience. We should be letting kids be kids, not dragging them into adult political games before they've had a chance to form their own views.

If the goal is to create strong, informed young voters, then let's focus on real solutions: bring back robust civics education and teach American history in our schools. Equip my boys and their peers with the tools to understand how our government works, the values that built this country, and the critical thinking skills to make their own decisions. That's how you empower the next generation—not by exposing them to lobbyists or flawed election schemes.

I urge you to reject HB 3012. Protect our children, preserve the integrity of our schools, and let's invest in education that builds thoughtful citizens, not political targets.

Please vote no on HB 3012.