

Submitter: Jeff Myers  
On Behalf Of: Save Oregon Schools  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

Members of the House Committee on Rules, I am writing today in opposition of this ridiculous bill brought forward by Representative Neron and others.

Just four short years ago, I was pretty ignorant to how our education system operated. I didn't attend school board meetings and certainly wasn't keeping track of legislation. I was just a dad to a couple of kids in the same public schools I had gone to as a kid. But then I started to notice changes, big changes, and began asking questions. I started showing up at school board meetings, reading books on all aspects of education from different points of view, and did research - a lot of research.

What I've discovered over these past four years has been sickening. We've allowed our public education system to be hijacked by ideologues. You know who I'm talking about, as they operate in many, many non-profits in Oregon and around the country, and they are regularly lobbying you to push for more and more radical changes to our education system. They use well-crafted narratives to tug at your heart strings, making it seem like every suggestion they have is going to help students and staff alike. The non-profits pushing this bill are part of the network of NGOs we need to start saying no to.

Now let's get specific about this bill. What is their rationale to lower the voting age to 16 for school board elections? If you haven't seen it already, you should read their "Messaging Guide" for submitting testimony. Link:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OXmPWVLe7D1fsoCkcwNWZYN1c5wKdexuiCQ81Fzxo1o/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.pye8w8jkmkj>

I grabbed that link from their web page on "How to become an activist".  
<https://nextuporegon.org/become-an-activist>

They make claims like:

"Research shows that students who participate in extracurricular activities are more engaged in school, have higher attendance, and are more likely to graduate."

and

"Research shows that students aged 16 and 17 have the same civic education, political skills, and interests as their 18-year-old classmates, who can vote."

They provide no citations because there is no such research. These activists are trying to manipulate you and others to further their radical transformation of our

school system and society. Trust me, I know better than most that our state legislature lacks the ability to validate research claims being made. As Rep Neron personally can attest to, I've spoken with her at length about this. I thought she was onboard with ensuring our education system was successful, which starts with leading with research-based programs and policies, but it appears she's bought the snake oil this latest group of NGOs is peddling.

I urge you all to table this bill and halt it in its tracks. You shouldn't entertain radical ideas just because they "sound nice" or claim to "protect democracy". Pushing through radical changes by manipulating feelings and lying about research is what's actually undemocratic.

And if you really want to make a difference with broad, positive impacts - pass a bill to establish a legislature office to review/validate research. I'll gladly sit down with anyone to discuss why this could be the most important thing you could do this whole legislative session.

Thank you for your time.

Jeff Myers