

Submitter: Narmeen Rashid
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Pham, Drazan and members of the House Rules committee.

For the record my name is Narmeen Rashid, a member of Next Up one of the lead organizations on this bill.

I am here 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. We have an opportunity to strengthen our democracy by giving students a voice in the decisions that directly impact their education. The Student Voice and Democracy Act will amplify the voices of thousands of students and keep decision-makers accountable.

As a recent graduate myself I know the struggles that students across the nation are facing. Issues ranging from book bans to gun violence. I know that students care deeply about their future, and giving them a voice in their education is an investment in their success. If I had this opportunity in highschool my interest in civics would have started at a younger age. I would have felt empowered to advocate for and make changes earlier.

I encourage you to listen to the voices of the young people and see that they want to be engaged in our democracy. It is about giving those who are directly impacted a say and adding engaged voters to our democracy. I urge the committee and the legislature to show the young people that are watching you this very minute that you think their voices matter.

Sincerely,

Narmeen