

Submitter: Kylie Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

My name is Kylie Johnson, and I live in Sherwood. 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 critical voice in their education thereby strengthening our democracy.

I have noticed a building apathy towards civic issues amongst teenagers, ever since quarantine ended—disillusioned with polarized politics and grid-locked congresses, teenagers feel as though they have no say in democracy, in their future. This bill, if passed through committee, will be one of my generation's strongest advocates on the chamber floor. By allowing upperclassmen to vote in school board elections, students will be incentivized to further engage themselves in their school, as they feel they have a larger stake in its running. Not only this, but it'll train the next generations of voters how to vote and engage themselves in democracy.

I urge members of this committee to ruminate of their teenage self—visionary, eager, maybe hopeful, and vote for that person who wanted their voice to be heard.

Thank you,
Kylie Johnson