

Submitter: Elle Troutman  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: Support HB 3012

Dear Char Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Pham, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Elle, I live in Portland. 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 am a Youth Peer Support Specialist so I work with lots of young people who are always impacted by their school board, for better or worse. Young people are so much smarter and intentional than many adults give them credit for. The young people I work with are responsible, responsive, engaged, and READY for more political responsibility. They want to see their values reflected in their school board.

They deserve to have a say in who is serving them. There should not be any decisions made by a body that was not elected by the people it's serving! Many people who run for school board don't even live in the communities they are serving. Many people treat school board elections as "practice elections" for their political career and therefore don't have a genuine interest in serving the youth they have power over.

Please, please, please vote in favor of the Student Voice and Democracy Act and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,

Elle