

Submitter: Angus Shumway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3012

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

My name is Angus and 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.

16- and 17-year-olds have a right to participate in the selection of the governing bodies that inform their education and extracurricular opportunities. Students do care about their future; giving them a voice in their school board elections empowers them to participate in and guide those futures. This participation also allows for the students to hold their school boards accountable to their promises and failures. It empowers engagement among 16 and 17 year olds and helps build a base of lifelong Oregonian voters who are eager to participate in our democracy. Students at this age are expected to learn to drive, can be employed and pay taxes, make medical decisions about their bodies, and make lifelong decisions that can influence their career paths and further education - they are ready to vote and participate in the institutions that make decisions about their education for them.

I support the Student Voice and Democracy Act, HB3012, and would like to see it passed out of committee.

Thank you for your time.