

Submitter: Tammy Carpenter, MD  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: Support HB 3012

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

My name is Tammy Carpenter and I am a member of the  
Beaverton School Board. I am writing to testify on my own behalf  
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.

As a steward of our public schools, I feel strongly that we have  
the responsibility to not only ensure that we generate the next  
generation workforce but I also feel a mandate to ensure that we  
turn out educated and engaged citizens. Early voting while a  
young person is in school greatly increases the chances of  
voting later in life. And I can't think of a citizen who is better  
prepared to vote than one who has just taken a civics class.  
Additionally brain science shows us that the cognitive ability  
required for voting is as fully developed in a 16 year old as it is in  
an older young person.

I appreciated the opportunity to provide public testimony in  
support of this bill and I sincerely hope that you will pass this bill  
out of committee. Please let me know if I can answer any  
questions.

Thank you,  
Tammy Carpenter  
Beaverton School Board Director