

Submitter: Christopher Ellis  
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 Christopher Ellis, and I live in the Kerns district of 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.

It has become a vital necessity for us to develop policies that empower those most directly impacted by decisions within our systems. I urge you to act decisively in safeguarding and elevating the democratic power of student voices. If ever we have believed in progress, freedom, democracy, now is the time to put those ideals into action. Each of us has a right to representation.

The very fact that myself and members of our community must write appeals and endorsements of this act should show how little recourse our students have in expressing their rights. It is our imperative that they be granted this opportunity, just as it is our imperative to protect the values of freedom and democracy with swift, legislative action.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Christopher Ellis