

Submitter: Ilya Fridman

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 Ilya Fridman, and I live in Portland, OR. 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.

I want the best for young people in our communities and encourage us to engage with young adults as the active, engaged members of our community that they are. This bill can give students a voice in shaping a future that meets their needs, and give us a better understanding of what those needs are. It would also engage them more deeply in their school, their communities, and civics, preparing them for future responsibility through education and experience. At 16, students already drive, work, and contribute to our economy. 16- and 17-year-olds should absolutely have a voice in school board elections that will directly impact their education and day to day experience in their schools, and we should want students to have true representation in these elections.

I strongly urge you to vote 'yes' on HB 3012 to lower the voting age for school board elections and give students a voice in their education.

Thank you,
Ilya Fridman