

Submitter:

Elizabeth Turner

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3012

Allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote would allow for a more enjoyable system of education for us who are required by law to attend high school. Having a say in how the board of education funds high schools, and what they put their attention of focus on will benefit the student greatly. I am a junior at Grant high school, and I can say that teachers do not get the rights they deserve as hard working citizens of our community. They too have the long hours of every day school, just like students, but unlike us, they get to go home and do 6 more hours of planning or grading for the next few days. My mother is a teacher and is simply unjust how much she works and how tired she is, just to be payed less and have the school district tell her she can cram another 10 kids in her 25 student classrooms. Despite this being destructive to teachers, it is also harmful for students: we are not getting the best education due to the larger class sizes, especially those who need extra help in schooling. The last thing I would like to point out is the teaching materials. Our schools systems have the same basic principles as the schools created in the 19th century. There was a study in Arizona, a video called "Precious Knowledge" covers this, where an ethnic studies class was conducted, inclusionary to every student. It taught students about Chicano and Aztec (mexican american origin) culture, because for years on end chicano students were the most vulnerable to low graduation rates, failing grades, and lack of attendance and inspiration within their classes and communities. Once the school, Tucson Unified, started the ethnic studies class, graduation rates went up in a total of 93%. How is it new knowledge that when students are taught things that they can connect themselves with, they excel. The board of education in Arizona took the extermination of the class to court in a total of 3 times. They (old white people) claimed it was segregation and anti patriotic. The graduation rates lowered almost immediately. We find inspiration within connecting with each other - not with our computers. We find ourselves doing better when we are working together, finding meaning of reciprocity and understanding our history in a way of acknowledging the real meaning of the word "connection". When the district tells us to sit down and listen, we cannot listen when all we want it to speak. When they tell us what to do, but not ask us what we want, they are failing our education. At my time in highschool, all I see is misery. People do not like to be in school. We must fund more art, we must let students see landscapes painted on the walls of the building, we must see empowering words from people that we believe in, we must have a say in what impacts our lives, especially if you expect our generation to save the world that generations before us have left crumbling behind them. If you truly cared for the futures of all of us, you would care enough to hear us speak.