

3 March 2025

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Jo Erikson

Re: Support for HB 3012 (Relating to voting in school district elections)

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Jo Erikson and I am a parent living in Corvallis, Oregon. 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 and strengthening our democracy.

In 2020 when our ballots arrived in the mail for the General Election, my 4 year old came to me shocked and confused that a ballot did not arrive for him. He could not understand in any way why he wouldn't have a right to vote, why his thoughts on something so important wouldn't matter. It dawned on me in that moment how unfair and disenfranchising our 18 year old age restriction on voting it was.

I am of the position that expanding voting rights and access is fully in support of our democratic values and I urge you to vote in support of HB 3012 and similar efforts to reduce voting age restrictions.

Sincerely,

Jo Erikson
Corvallis, Oregon