

Testimony before the House Rules Committee

Regarding HB 2988

Morgan Haskin, West Linn High School Student

March 13, 2013

Chair Garret, members of the committee, for the record my name is Morgan Haskin and I am a junior at West Linn High School. I am here today to speak in favor of HB 2988, which proposes to lower to 16 the age at which an Oregonian can register to become a voter in Oregon. Passing this bill would have a number of benefits; likely including a growth in voter turnout. It is essential that our young people vote and are able to take part in democracy. Here are some statistics:

- In 2010, about 61% of 18- year olds had their drivers' licenses; While 46% in 17- year olds and 28% in 18- year olds.
- In the 2008 Election, 41% of young adults aged 18-24 were not registered to vote.
- In the 2008 Election, 58.5% of young adults aged 18-24 were registered to vote; and out of that 48.5% actually voted.

If young Oregonians had the opportunity to register to vote when they apply for their drivers' license, it is likely that more people will vote. Most young people today have many commitments that might keep them from registering to vote when they turn 18, including school, work, and other extracurricular activities. This bill would make things much easier for young people. I ask you to please consider supporting HB 2988.

Your time is greatly appreciated.

Morgan Haskin

West Linn High School