

House Bill 2988

Chair Garret, members of the committee, my name is Kelsey Douglas and I'm a junior at West Linn High School. I am here to speak in favor of House Bill 2988, which suggests that the voter registration age for an Oregonian should be lowered to 16.

Over this past year, I have been watching as more and more of my classmates have been driving to school for the first time with their newly obtained license. 16 year olds tend not to push off learning to drive as they gain more independence. Since 17 is currently the eligible age for registration, the vast majority of kids are not eligible to register at their test, and cannot cease the opportunity. It would be more convenient and practical to lower the age, so the kids that will be qualified to vote if an election is present in the preceding years, they will be more enticed to.

Increasing voter turnout will not be as effective if the 17 year age limit is implemented because all of the kids testing for their license at 16 will not have to renew it until well after 18, a time period where an election will have occurred. This could make a difference in voter turnout among the youngest of the qualifying voters, a group that does not tend to vote.

I ask for your **support** in House Bill 2988, to make voter registration easier and more effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kelsey Douglas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelsey Douglas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.