



March 6, 2017

Dear Majority Leader Burdick and Members of the Committee,

We, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), are writing to express our support for SB 802-allowing 16-year-olds the opportunity to pre-register to vote.

The Coalition of Communities of Color is an alliance of 19 culturally-specific, community based organizations working to advance racial justice by addressing socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity in services. The CCC supports legislation that improves voter access for communities of color and young people. Voter registration is the single biggest barrier to voting that our communities face. Since the implementation of Motor Voter law in Oregon, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians have been registered to vote when they obtain or renew their driver's license. We should continue demonstrating strong leadership in voting rights access by extending the same opportunity to 16 year-olds. Engaging young people and giving them the ability to have their voices heard in elections is the key to achieving more equitable outcomes.

The Coalition of Communities hopes you will join us in our collective efforts to improve access to voting in Oregon by supporting SB 802. The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy and we want to ensure that communities of color have every opportunity to meaningfully participate in our elections.

Sincerely,

Amanda Manjarrez

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Manjarrez", written in a cursive style.

Advocacy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color

