

Dear Oregon Legislature,

I have worked in Oregon schools for 11 years, and I can tell you from first hand experience that 16 years olds are the LEAST equipped to make a thoughtful, logical, researched choice. It is a well known observation in the high school system, and a bit of a re-assuring joke, that 15 and 16 year olds lose most of their reason and are very susceptible to the herd mentality at that age. We would comfort each other with that observation knowing that in time they would outgrow it.

Oregon making this move, especially without the approval of voters, smacks of desperation to indoctrinate students to vote in the state approved manner. For the educated, this is heavily reminiscent of Germany under Hitler. The Oregon government has incredibly over-reached their constitutional power lately in many of their recent, non-voter approved decisions, and for the first time in my 41 years in Oregon, I am hearing smart, sane people speaking of moving from their native state because of these over-reaching laws and the increasingly heavy burden of taxes. Oregon is well ahead of the curve on instituting socialism and will be one of the first to crash when many of the hard-working, educated and tax-paying population move out of state.

I have not spoken to a single adult person in my circle who supports this idea. Even my friends who are Democrats openly acknowledge they think allowing 16 year olds to vote is wrong on many levels and a desperate move to control politics. In some ways, indoctrinating students and then leading to vote a certain way is very similar to grooming for child abuse and I hope you will decide to stay from away from these minors and let them be children and not pawns.

Sincerely,
Joyce Engberg
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