

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Oregon Legislature,

16 and 17 year-olds, who are still living with, and mostly dependent on their parents, should not be given the right to vote.

As a parent of two recent high school graduates, both of whom were in National Honor Society, and participated in several extracurricular activities – i.e., well-rounded, well-behaved kids – I can attest that 16 and 17 year-old children have an underdeveloped temporal sense and inability to fully understand the long-term effects and ramifications of their decision making. I would not for example, want my daughters making decisions for your grandmother. It is enough for me to try and talk them out of a very silly tattoo, imagine if they wanted to legally text and drive?

Even those of us who are legally responsible for our own actions, can enter into binding contracts, have experienced deep loss, and deep love, have given birth, have served our country, and have known what it is truly like to put the needs of others in front of our own – even we do not always make good decisions at the ballot box.

Leadership, wisdom, and decision making are a tremendous responsibility, which one grows into over time. Vaping and swiping right does not count for adequate life experience, in my opinion.

I would consider an exception for kids who are emancipated from their parents and fully supporting themselves, but only in those very specific cases.

Please, let's let the kids be kids for a little while longer.

Respectfully submitted,

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