

Dear Senate Rules Committee,

I am a born and raised Oregonian and love this state. However, I am deeply concerned by the legislation that is and continues to be introduced into our great state.

I won't bore you with all of my thoughts, but I do want to share a few concerns I have at this time. My current understanding is that you are looking to vote on SJR22 and SB838. Both of these proposals would lower the voting the age to 16. Do you really think this is a great idea?

When voting on this, please consider the following:

- The same people pushing to LOWER the voting age are pushing to RAISE the minimum age to purchase firearms. Ask yourself why that is? If children at 18, 19, 20 are TOO immature to purchase/own firearms - how do you figure they are mature enough vote on our laws?
- 16 year old children should be focused on their education, learning to drive, and simply becoming better, more productive people in this world. This includes finding part time/summer jobs and building basic skills, like showing up to work on time.
- The majority of these children have little to no actual life experience outside of the classroom. They do not understand the immediate, nor the long term effects of the items which they will be asked to vote.
- Often their political knowledge is instilled upon them by their teachers and peers. They are easily influenced and manipulated by those around them. Considering the current "norm" of the media and even school districts that have been parading children around as puppets for their own agenda - do you really think the children will be voting their "own" thoughts?

I strongly request that you **VOTE NO on SJR22 and SB838!** Instead of "dumbing" down our voter base, we need to improve education within our youth. I would much rather see us focus on improving our education system, and letting children be children while they can.

I'll leave you with one last thought. Recently it came to light that Beto O'Rourke wrote a horrifying story about intentionally running over children with a vehicle. His own words:

*"As I neared the young ones, I put all my weight on my right foot, keeping the accelerator pedal on the floor until I heard the crashing of the two children on the hood, and then the sharp cry of pain from one of the two," reads an excerpt. "I was so fascinated for a moment, that when after I had stopped my vehicle, I just sat in a daze, sweet visions filling my head."*

As for why he wrote this? **He was a young, impressionable teenager, trying to impress his peers.**

Sincerely,

J. Scott Templar  
[pdxwarrior@gmail.com](mailto:pdxwarrior@gmail.com)  
Beaverton, OR 97006