

Hello,

My name is Moaaz Elbarbry, and I currently serve on the Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council (YAC). I am currently a senior at Liberty High School and have involved myself extensively in my muslim and citywide community. I have volunteered for hundreds of hours around throughout the city with Hillsboro Parks and Rec, Tuality Healthcare, and blood drives at my school. Furthermore, I am the chairman of a religious organization named Sons of Adam, which provides safe spaces for muslim boys to thrive physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually. My extensive involvement in my communities has exposed me to various issues that are present and need attention. Although I have only been on the Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council for a year, it has given me multiple valuable platforms that I have used in order to advocate for these issues. One of these platforms was Hillsboro YAC's very own TEDxYouth event. I applied, interviewed, and got accepted to speak about problems that my Muslim community faces; an opportunity that would not have been available to me if it wasn't for YAC. Other opportunities that YAC has gifted me include job shadowing Janeen Sollman at the Oregon State Capitol helping prepare dinners through Home Plate, job shadowing a city counselor, attending an Oregon Youth Summit to meet other YAC councils, and many more. Furthermore, I have been able to meet some wonderful people through YAC and have created connections that may last me a lifetime. Throughout my time in YAC, I noticed that I have developed this much stronger passion for politics and public justice, and I'm confident that this newborn passion will help me create an impact in my community. I am strongly in favor of passing the House Bill 2824 as it will give more youth the same opportunity that was gifted to me, and they will be able to create change on an even bigger scale.