

Oregon Student Association



April 10th, 2019

To: House Committee on Rules
From: The Oregon Student Association
RE: HB 2824, Governor's Youth Council

Dear Chair Holvey and Vice-Chairs Wilson and Williamson,

My name is Perla Alvarez and I am the legislative Director at the Oregon Student Association. Today I am writing in support of HB 2824 which would create the Governor's Youth Council. The Oregon Student Association is a student-led, student-run organization that represents over 130,000 students in the state and advocates. OSA supports HB 2824 because we believe that young people should be involved in the decision-making process at the state-level.

Our youth are the present and the future, they should be actively involved making policy recommendations about what impacts them the most. Youth advisory boards have proven to be effective, they influence policy on issues like education, public safety, public health and the environment. Young people are experts of their own experiences and are capable of advocating for themselves.

One example of an existent influential youth group in policy making is the Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC). The MYC is an official youth policy body for the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The MYC is one example of an official government body that makes recommendations to the city and county governments on what they would like to see in their communities. They are actively involved in decision making and they draft policy recommendations to address violence in the communities, to make transportation accessible and free to young people through the YouthPass program and have advocate and advise school-based health centers. A state-level youth council would create a state-level impact.

Youth partnerships are critical and important. HB 2824 would create a new avenue for young people to take leadership on policy issues that impact us. Experience with this kind of leadership can help people like us become more deeply involved in politics throughout our lives.

OSA urges the committee to support HB 2824.

Sincerely,
Perla Alvarez

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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