

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee;

My name is Ilya Goheen, I am a junior at Sisters High School located in Sisters, Oregon. As a student I strongly endorse Senate Bill 513. I believe that the benefits of this bill would lead to an overall improvement in citizen involvement in the political process.

After taking a comprehensive course on politics, AP government politics & policies, I found myself better educated and more involved in the political system. By studying civics, I can better understand how the government works and how exactly my vote and voice matter in a political environment. It has also inspired me to act towards real change.

In addition to this, my civics education has given me a better understanding of the issues that America faces internally. It allows me to better understand what has caused these issues and what possible solutions could be implemented to address them. Overall, I feel far more engaged in my country and more prepared for my adult life than I would have if I hadn't taken a civics course. As a result of this course, when I come of voting age, I will be able to better understand the issues at hand and use my vote in a way that can lead to the betterment of life. My civics education has also given rise to an interest in politics, so much so, that I am considering it as a possible career in the future. To put it simply, civics education has changed my life and I believe that a required civics education can change many lives and give rise to a better educated populace.

Ilya Goheen
Sisters, Oregon
ilyagoheen04@gmail.com