



Mazie Drummond  
Senate Committee on Rules  
RE: Support SB 776

March 11th, 2021

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

My name is Mazie Drummond, and I'm a high school student living in Multnomah County. I am testifying today to urge you to **support SB 776** which will allow 16 and 17 year olds to participate in school district elections.

I'm a firm believer that students should have autonomy in their education and lives. So often adults or politicians debate what is best for the youth without asking us. We deserve to have stakes in our own futures. When students can make choices about our education, we will be more engaged in making concrete learning choices, and also gain valuable civics experience. SB 776 enables a whole generation of youth to see that there is power in their votes, and that their voices matter.

So often, as a young person, it's easy to feel powerless in my education and my future, but SB 776 can change that for Oregon students. Youth want to learn and grow, and if students are granted a say in their educational experience, they will use their voices to make choices and demand change that positively influence their learning experience, and Oregon will grow stronger because of it. We all win when education accounts for everyone.

Support young people. I urge you to support and pass SB 776.

Sincerely,  
Mazie Drummond