

Submitter: Clara Danny
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

I have always believed that everyone, regardless of their age, deserves to have their voices heard and their opinions are taken into account. As elected officials, you have a responsibility to encourage and empower our young people to become engaged and active members of our democracy. Lowering the voting age to 16 would be a powerful step in that direction. Sixteen-year-olds are old enough to work, pay taxes, and be charged as adults in the court. They are also old enough to be held responsible for their actions and to serve in our armed forces. If they can do all of these things, then they should also be able to participate in the most fundamental aspect of our democracy – voting. I believe that by giving 16-year-olds the right to vote, we would be sending a message that we value their opinions, and we trust them to be responsible and informed citizens. It would also help to establish a lifelong habit of civic engagement, which is crucial to the health and vitality of our democracy. research has shown that younger voters are more likely to vote for policies that support education, health care, and environmental protection – issues that are critically important to our state's future. By giving 16-year-olds a say in these matters, we would be helping to shape a better future for all of us.