

Submitter: Deborah Wettberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HJR20

Lowering the voting age to 16 is a bold and progressive move that shows a commitment to empowering young people and giving them a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. It recognizes the fact that young people have a stake in their communities and are deeply invested in building a better future for themselves and for generations to come.

As a high school social studies teacher, I have had the pleasure of working with young people throughout my career, and I have always been struck by their energy, creativity, and sense of purpose. By lowering the voting age, Oregon would be tapping into this immense potential and inviting young people to be active and engaged citizens, not just for today, but for the rest of their lives.

Lowering the voting age would signal a commitment to civic education and to cultivating a culture of democracy and participation. It would encourage young people to learn about the issues that affect their communities and to take an active role in finding solutions to these challenges.