

Submitter: Robert Spohn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR20

As a lifelong revolutionary activist, scholar, and former teacher, I write to you today to express my unequivocal support for HJR 20. This proposed amendment is a critical and long overdue step towards creating a more just and equitable democracy in Oregon.

I have dedicated my life to fighting for social justice and equality, and I firmly believe that young people are the driving force of revolutionary change. The young people of Oregon, like young people across the world, have shown time and time again that they are ready and willing to fight for their rights and for a better future for all. Lowering the voting age to 16 is a necessary step towards recognizing and empowering the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

It is important to remember that young people are not the passive recipients of decisions made by adults; they are active participants in society with unique perspectives, experiences, and insights. By denying them the right to vote, we are not only silencing their voices but also denying ourselves the opportunity to benefit from their wisdom and creativity.

We live in a world that is facing unprecedented challenges, from the climate crisis to rampant inequality, and it is our collective responsibility to work together to find solutions. By lowering the voting age to 16, we can harness the energy and passion of young people and work towards a more just and sustainable future.

I urge you to seize this historic opportunity to create a more inclusive and democratic society in Oregon. I stand with the young people of Oregon and with all those who believe in the power of young people to create a better world. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.