Submitter: Karen Carver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HJR20

It's important to remember that 16-year-olds are already legally allowed to work, pay taxes, make independent medical decisions, and 17 year olds can join the military. If they are deemed responsible enough to take on these responsibilities, then why shouldn't they have a say in the decisions that affect their lives and futures? It's their future at stake, after all.

Research has shown that 16-year-olds are politically engaged and informed, with many of them following politics and the news closely. By denying them the right to vote, we are essentially telling them that their opinions and voices do not matter, which is not only unfair but also counterproductive for building a healthy democracy.

Let's not forget that the idea of raising the voting age was once used to disenfranchise young people, particularly during the Vietnam War era. We don't want to repeat that mistake by denying young people their rightful place in the democratic process.

I would argue that it's time to trust and respect the judgment of young people and allow them to participate fully in our democracy. It's the right thing to do for our future and for the health of our democracy.