

To: House Rules Committee
From: Kate Titus, Common Cause Oregon
Re: Lowering the Voting Age (HJR 20, HB 3206, HB 2694)
Date: February 21, 2023

Common Cause

Common Cause is a nonpartisan organization that works for open, honest, accountable government. We are 1.5 million Americans – including roughly 30,000 Oregonians – working together to realize the unfinished promise of democracy.

Support for Lowering the Voting Age

During the Vietnam War era, when many young people were being drafted into military service, Common Cause was instrumental in helping pass the 26th Constitutional Amendment, lowering the voting age to 18. Clearly those old enough to die for this country should have a vote.

Today we face a similar moment in history. Right now, young people across the country are showing up in record numbers to advocate for the causes that matter most to them – but in most jurisdictions, including in Oregon, they do not have a direct voice at the ballot box. Science seems to indicate that by 16 and 17 years of age, our “cold” cognition has generally matured to adult levels., so Common Cause sees no reason to deny this population a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Common Cause endorses all three measures.