

Submitter: Robin Sack
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3206

Good afternoon Members of the Committee.

My name is Robin Sack and I am a current junior in high school, a resident of Portland, Oregon, and most importantly: a 17 year old.

I will get straight to the point. HB 3206 is a radical opportunity to let the voices of students in Oregon truly be heard.

Some will say that teenagers are too rash, too immature, too naive about life to participate in elections such as the ones for school districts, and I understand. We tend to get a certain reputation in this world, and I would be lying if I didn't say I held this same mindset about some of my peers. But I would also be lying if I said kids aren't changing the world.

Because we are.

A quick look around the globe and there are kids fighting crisis after crisis, demanding better of our institutions, coming to the State Capitol to testify, yelling, shouting, demanding a better world. Because this is the world we are growing up in, the one we will be adults in, and the one all the little kids will grow up in too. We take it upon ourselves to go out and make our voices heard, which can be such a challenge in a society that doesn't take teenagers seriously so much of the time.

But let me ask you this: if not us, who? If we are not the ones voting for who will be representing us, who? The parents who are not in the school system? The family and friends not in the school system? The community members not in the school system? These people have valuable opinions that must be taken into account, but they are not the kids directly impacted by our current school system and the ones that need adequate representation in districts to create real change.

HB 3206 creates space for that change. I believe as a high school student I should have the right to choose who represents me and the other students in my district. Ask yourself, do you wish the same for your kids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, community members, who are 16 and 17? I certainly hope the answer is yes.

Today, I urge you to support HB 3206 because teenagers, while still growing and learning, also deserve the right to vote people into districts that will truly champion us as students. Thank you.