



February 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Rules

From: Oregon Education Association

Re: Support for HB 2694

Dear Chair Fahey and members of the committee---

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 educators and education service professionals across the state, from pre-k to community colleges. Our members are classroom teachers, bus drivers, custodians, teacher assistants, nutrition specialists, school counselors, community college professionals and more.

We would like to express our enthusiastic support for HB 2694, which would ensure that 17 year olds can vote in a primary election of their affiliated party selection for the chosen candidate in the general election.

This is an important next step for access to the ballot for an entire group of young people who are impacted by decisions made during the primary and general elections. We ask young people to engage in many ways in our elections, from pre-registering to volunteering to get out the vote, yet while they engage in critical conversations about the selection of candidates they are not able to cast a vote.

Let's show the next generation how much we believe in their abilities, their voices and our shared future. We urge your support of HB 2694.

Michele Ruffin

Government Relations Consultant

Oregon Education Association