

RE: Support for Our Future, Our Vote - HJR 20  
House Committee on Rules

February 23, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Special Lovincey and I live in Portland, OR. I am writing to testify in strong support of HJR 20, which will lower the voting age from 18 years old to 16.

We know civic habits are more likely to stick when developed at a younger age. Research suggests that allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote can improve voter turnout, spur civic engagement, and encourage effective civics education.

Lowering the voting age to 16 will encourage young people to become more engaged in the political process and will help to build a lifelong habit of voting.

Individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age are affected by many of the laws and policies decided upon by elected officials, yet they are denied the right to vote for those officials.

The effort to lower the voting age transcends party lines. The main goal of the effort is to invigorate our democracy by fostering active and engaged citizens.

Please pass HJR 20 out of the committee.

Thank you,

Special Lovincey