

RE: Support for HB 3206
House Committee on Rules

Feb 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 HB 3206, which will allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in school district elections.

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.

16 or 17 year olds are already entitled to drive, pay taxes, be tried as adults in the criminal justice system and work up to 44 hours per week and should have a voice in how a system in which they already participate is run.

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.

Please pass HB 3206 out of the committee.

Thank you,

Special Lovincey