

Submitter: Joshua Frankel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB421

To the Members of the Senate Education Committee,

As a non-formal educator working for a non-profit based in Eugene, and as a citizen of Oregon, I support SB-421. This bill provides an essential framework for youth to be heard on issues that effect their lives, today and into the future. This type of civic engagement benefits participating youth, and strengthens their skills to be leaders. It gives them a sense of value, belonging, and worth; the proposed youth advisory council provides a valuable opportunity to young citizens of a state and country that stand for equity, and providing its people access to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Now is the time to get this right; youth leaders are willing to assist our state's government in aligning with what our communities actually need. This bill opens the door for stronger representation of communities already identified by the state as underrepresented or underserved (under ORS 329.841, 329.843 and 329.845). Children of Oregon's working class, LGBTQ youth, and children of color have not had the same opportunities as some of their more privileged peers. This bill provides the needed avenue to bring community voices to the table, and in a positive way!

Please help strengthen the safety, quality of life, and opportunities for our youth and their communities across Oregon through your support of this bill.

Thank you for considering my testimony relating to SB-421,  
~ Joshua Frankel