

Submitter: Jasia Mosley  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: Support HB 3012

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Pham and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Jasia, and I live in Gresham. I am writing testimony in my personal capacity as an Oregon resident. I'm writing to testify in strong support of the Student Voice and Democracy Act, HB 3012, which will allow registered 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local school board elections, giving students a critical voice in their education thereby strengthening our democracy.

**Oregon students deserve to have their voices heard and concerns addressed in their schools.** I graduated high school in 2019 and I was an enthusiastic student athlete, involved in many clubs, and excited to engage deeper in my local community. Unfortunately, my high school experience ended up being extremely difficult because myself and many other peers — who were also Black — were bullied due to rampant bias in our school.

What ensued was a multi-year discussion with our administration and my school board, which resulted in no actions being taken to reduce bullying. When the situation was ignored for so long and became so dire that I had to transfer schools I also found out another ugly truth: that the bullying issues I faced in the first school were also present in my new one.

Sadly, my story is not unique, but it can be addressed through HB 3012. Students should have the opportunity to have conversations and interactions with school board members built on mutual respect and input. Students have amazing and innovative ideas that could contribute to the betterment of their school environments and we Oregon legislators have the opportunity to help make that a reality through HB 3012.

Through HB 3012, Oregon has the chance to ensure that regardless of where a student lives or what they look like, they know that their voice is valued in their schools by having a seat at the table.

Please pass this important bill out of committee.

Thank you,  
Jasia