



June 9th, 2025

Representative Andrea Valderrama
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-286
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 3012 - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Andrea Valderrama,

The Youth Civic Impact Collective (YCIC) is pleased to support House Bill 3012. As a nonpartisan, student-led organization committed to transforming civics education and amplifying youth voices, we strongly believe that extending voting rights to 16- and 17-year-olds in school board elections represents a vital and necessary step toward strengthening youth engagement.

HB-3012 addresses a clear disconnect in our educational democracy: students who are directly influenced by school board elections currently have no voice in choosing the officials governing their daily lives. By allowing registered 16- and 17-year-olds to engage in school board elections, Oregon would recognize that those most impacted by school policies deserve a seat at the table.

Our partnerships with student leaders across the country has demonstrated that civic engagement is a habit that benefits those who start early. Youth who participate in democratic processes are significantly more likely to never stop. HB-3012 provides the ideal entry point to allow students to witness the impact of their participation.

One of YCIC's core philosophies is learning by doing. While civics in the classroom provides important context, authentic democratic participation simply cannot be taught—it must be experienced. Allowing high school students to actually vote in the elections that directly shape their environment creates an invaluable learning opportunity that will better prepare them for full participation at voting age.

Oregon has the opportunity to lead by example and correct this democratic deficit. Thank you for your time, and we hope you will consider supporting HB-3012.

Sincerely,
The Policy Committee at Youth Civic Impact Collective

Arjun Ayyapan
Bella Meyer
Ishaan Savla
Kyle Park
Katie Jin