



April 9, 2019

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Williamson and Wilson, and Members of the House Rules Committee:

We write this letter to express our support for [House Bill 2824](#). This bill would create a statewide Youth Council in Oregon. Youth Council members would help advise the Governor on issues related to education, student safety, civic engagement, and more.

Oregon students know first-hand how our state and local decisions around policies and investments impact their lives. With that, it is imperative that their lived-experience and input be valued throughout our policy development and implementation process.

As you consider the bill, we ask that you continue to apply an equity lens in helping recruit and support students as members of the Oregon Youth Council. In applying an equity lens, we ask that you continue to examine and address:

1. How are students from historically underrepresented and underserved communities being meaningfully engaged as part of the Oregon Youth Council?
2. How is the state helping remove barriers, both real and perceived, when it comes to helping students access and participate as a member of the Oregon Youth Council?
3. How will the state ensure that youth voices and perspectives are valued, and not tokenized?

We appreciate all of the work that went into bringing HB 2824 forward – in our view, it represents an important step toward making sure that Oregon students have a seat at the table.

Please vote YES in support of HB 2824 so that Oregon can continue to elevate and support student voices in the policy development and implementation process. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Parasa Chanramy  
Policy & Implementation Director  
Stand for Children Oregon

Dana Smiley  
Policy Organizer  
Oregon Student Voice