

Barbara Baker
Bradley, Maine
LD 1446

Committee Members,

LD 1146 is a bill dear to my heart as I worked toward lowering the vote to 18 back in the 70's. I am a member of the League of Women Voters who participated in the process of whether or not to support this issue. In a straw vote at the beginning of going over the research, I was tentatively against it. Then, we went chapter by chapter through the research, debating among our group members about the research pro and against. Finally, I became a strong supporter of this bill (having learned from the LWVME research efforts).

I can draw from my own 20 years of experience with out-of-school youth development programs. When young people are given support and opportunities to engage in civil engagement activities, they do so with gusto!

Young people ages 16-17 are capable of voting as cognitive science proves, they are capable of making their own decisions without being influenced by their parents, in fact they often encourage their parents to vote as learned from Scotland and New Zealand's experience. Because of this, I ask you to vote ought to pass to LD 1146.

Thank you,
Barbara Baker, Bradley, Maine