

Kalei Kieu
Scarborough
LD 1446

My name is Kalei Kieu and I am a Scarborough High School senior who will be voting in the next upcoming election. I support the proposed bill because I believe that 16 and 17 year olds are capable of making informed decisions when it comes to voting. Personally, I've been involved in advocacy work since my freshman year of high school through my school's Civil Rights Club. Our club puts an emphasis on civic engagement so I've helped to run a voter registration drive at my school every year. Through this I've witnessed the commitment that these students, who are primarily 16-17, have towards engaging with local politics.

Through this club, we've also helped students engage with state representatives to voice their policy concerns by helping them send letters as well as make calls to the state house. Again, most of the students who engaged with this outreach were 16-17 and did this even without the ability to vote. Giving 16-17 year olds the ability to vote would further this engagement and allow them to make more of an impact as well as give their voice more leverage when doing outreach to representatives.

At the end of the day, the 16-17 year olds that put in the effort to vote are also informed about the politicians they are supporting. They deserve the right to vote.