

Kimberly Simmons
Portland
LD 1446

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

My name is Kimberly Simmons and I am from Portland. I am writing to ask you to vote for LD 1446.

Young people have so much at stake as they face the future, and they deserve to have more say in what happens. While I understand the concern that they are not yet “worldly” enough to make informed decisions, the flip of this concern is that voting when we are younger helps us build a deep habit and belief in the importance of civic participation. (<https://civic.umd.edu/news/case-16-year-old-vote>) . More importantly, to me as an educator, is the hope that the right to vote will spark youth to learn more about the social issues and candidates they care about. We all need to become better informed, and better able to navigate disinformation campaigns, and bringing students into the practice of voting while they are in High School will strengthen our civic life more than it will harm it.

Thank you,
Kimberly Simmons, PhD