

CHILDREN'S VOTING COLLOQUIUM

Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws
In Support of [S.412](#) / [H.670](#) An Act enabling children's right to vote
By Anthony Fotenos, Founder of [Association for Children's Suffrage](#)
June 21, 2023

Chair Keenan, Chair Ryan, and members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, I'm Anthony Fotenos, and I'm pleased to offer testimony in support of **S.412 / H.670 An Act enabling children's right to vote.**

When I was a student at Brown University, I founded the [Association for Children's Suffrage](#) (link to web archive of our website). I did this because I had felt that the voting age was unjust ever since hearing a news radio story on the Vote16 debate in Canada when I was 12 years old. Here is an article that was published in [The Brown Daily Herald](#), "Fotenos '99 Pursues Child Suffrage."

On behalf of the Association for Children's Suffrage, I contributed a chapter to a book on voting age reform perspectives. You can read this here: "[The Voting Age Should Be Eliminated](#)" (2008).

Now I have two college-age children of my own. My understanding has grown that in the economy, we have "1 dollar, 1 vote"; on social media, we have "1 like, 1 vote"; in the classroom or on the athletic field, we have "1 point, 1 vote". But if the truth of our equal creation is self-evident, then so too must "1 person, 1 vote" become evident in law, sometime and somewhere.

Let that time be now and that place be here, where the longest democracy on Earth decides anew to live up to the true meaning of its revolutionary creed: "1 person, 1 vote." I thus urge the Joint Committee on Election Laws to report **S.412 / H.670 An Act enabling children's right to vote** favorably and in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration.