

# 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 Barbara Bennett Woodhouse, Emory Law Distinguished Professor Emeritus  
June 23, 2023

Chair Keenan, Chair Ryan, and members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, I'm Barbara Bennett Woodhouse, Emory School of Law Distinguished Professor Emeritus<sup>1</sup>, and I'm pleased to offer testimony in support of **S.412 / H.670 An Act enabling children's right to vote.**

I have studied, taught and researched issues of children's rights, family law, child development and international comparative law for 50 years. I have witnessed the recognition in all of our peer nations that children have a right to participate in decisions that affect their welfare. Wherever young people have been given a voice and a vote, they have shown their capacity to make a positive contribution. Inclusion of children and youth in the decisions we make today not only promotes sound public policies, it is key to ensuring a lifetime commitment to the democratic process.

I 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://law.emory.edu/faculty/faculty-emeritus/woodhouse-emeritus-profile.html>