

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 Julie McClure of Concord, MA
June 21, 2023

Chair Keenan, Chair Ryan, and members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, I'm Julie McClure, a voter in Concord, MA, parent, and former educator in support of **S.412 / H.670 An Act enabling children's right to vote.**

Many of the policies most harmful to young people stem from the absence of their representation. With recent federal budget cuts that remove nutrition assistance for children in poverty, the lack of fair representation for children is a matter of survival. It is urgent for children to be represented and to have a voice in this imperfect system, if for no other reason, so they might access nutrition assistance and housing stability.

Aside from these urgent material needs, children and youth face the greatest existential crisis for us all: climate. Our failure to pass meaningful policy to create a carbon zero future is hurting everyone and especially young people.

Expanding access to the vote is a logical progression for a democratic society. Democracy is a verb: it requires looking at the gaps, the lack of access, and whose voice is missing.

When our current system fails to serve our most precious citizens and our most certain future, the time is right to expand enfranchisement.

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.