

Good afternoon,

My name is Christopher Carroll and I am a student at the Masterman School in Philadelphia. My friends know me as the "politics" kid. Ask me anything and the chances are I could answer your question. As a young person extremely interested in politics I cannot wait until the day where I can vote. Whether it is in a mayoral primary, a gubernatorial race, or a presidential election I would love to have the opportunity to vote right now but I realize that I can't. I don't not feel as though 17 year olds like myself should have the opportunity to vote before legally becoming voters. Firstly I fully believe in the democratic process of electing our officials. If I were given the opportunity to vote right now I would but I would not feel as though I would be a true registered voter. In my opinion I should have the same rights as other voters when I get my voter registration card. I would not be able to contribute to the candidate that I would be voting for because campaign financing laws limit donations to 18 year olds. Another reason that I would not support this bill is with the issue of becoming a delegate. Would this legislation allow me to go to Denver for example to become a delegate at my parties convention. Would I have to ask my mother to accompany me? Keep in mind that the presidential election is in November and the conventions are in the summer making me 17 at the time of the convention. Another thing to keep in mind is the issue of primaries themselves. Would 17 year olds be able to vote for a candidate running in a primary and other candidates that may be on that ballot who are not running in a primary? What about questions on the ballots? Would 17 year olds be allowed to vote for

questions pertaining to different logistical aspects of our government if they are only supposed to be voting in the primary? How can I not be responsible in donating money to a campaign yet be responsible enough to decide on a person who could possibly send me to a war or take control of my rights? How can I be responsible enough to vote for a candidate yet not responsible enough to represent one? I do not want to be a puppet for candidates. I do not want to only be a vote I want to be a voter. In my opinion the state legislature should focus more on the getting my peers 18- 25 actually out to the polls to vote. Young voters have one of the lowest turnouts of any group in many polls and before adding to the problem why not fix it?

Thank you,

Christopher Carroll