



michigan organization on  
adolescent sexual health

May 22, 2023

House Elections Committee

Room 327, House Office Building, Lansing, MI

**Re: MOASH Supports HB 4569**

Dear Representatives Tsernoglou, Wegela, Smit, Hope, Koleszar, Byrnes, Churches, and Deboyer,

(CC: Clerk Sleeper)

**On behalf of the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH), I urge you to support HB 4569 to allow MI youth 16 and 17 to pre-register to vote, and voting once they turn 18. A young person's ability to vote is one of their most powerful tools in advocating for or against policies and practices that affect them - including within the realm of sexual and reproductive health, education, and their rights.**

According to research at Tufts University, MI Youth (18-29) turned out to vote in the 2022 elections at a higher rate (37%) than youth across the country (~23% average across the country); their mobilizing made it clear that they are committed to using elections as a tool to advocate for themselves and their peers. We know allowing pre-registration can increase youth voter participation and [voting rates](#) in elections, allowing for more equitable elections for eligible voters 18+. Many young people report missing voter registration deadlines, often due to not knowing enough about the process of registration (when, where, and how). Pre-registration allows young people more time to gather and tap into needed information and resources to support their civic engagement.

**Michigan youth deserve to have their voices heard and counted when advocating for themselves and their peers. Once again, we urge you to vote yes on HB 4589.**

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shakti Rambarran'.

Shakti Rambarran, MPH, MS  
Advocacy Director