

**Testimony on SB 5022**

*Kelsey E. Knowles, President  
Associated Students of the University of Washington*

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Committee. It's a pleasure to testify before you again today. My name is Kelsey Knowles, and I am the President of the Associated Students of the University of Washington.

There are three key reasons why our student body opposes SB 5022:

1. The length of the Regent's term is the only check that students have on the Regent. By expanding the term to a potential two years, students could be stuck with an ineffective regent for twice as long with no ability to remove them. Holding the Student Regent accountable is a vital student interest.
2. By allowing each institution's governing board to determine the length of the Student Regent's term of service, the student member is effectively handicapped from the first day of their term. The Board could decide to set the term at a mere ninety days, meaning that students could be without adequate representation for months while a new selection process is conducted and the Governor makes a new appointment. In addition, by giving the Board control of the term of one of their own, it portrays the image that the Student Regent is less important than the other members of the Board.
3. A two-year term limits access to the position as well as the available talent pool. Undergraduate sophomores would have to apply mid-way through the year in order to hold the term for two full years. In addition, it would eliminate the ability of graduate students in a two-year program to serve out a full term. Artificially imposing these limitations on the Regent position will severely limit the number of students eligible for the position.

Students fought hard for the right to have representation on the governing boards of our institutions. **I ask you to please keep this right intact and to oppose SB 5022.**

### **Concerns About SB 5022**

*Alex Bolton, Student Regent  
University of Washington*

#### **Policy Concerns**

- Having a possible two year term could lead decision makers to only select candidates that have two years left in school.
- If only selecting people that have two years left in school, we greatly reduce our talent pool.
- Many graduate programs are only two years long; this would exclude students in these programs from the position unless they apply before enrolling.
- Could also limit undergraduate access to position. Only sophomores would be likely to apply, and I question if they have enough experience to do the job.
- Theoretically cut talent pool in half. If a person has two years left in school, but current Student Regent is in middle of term, they will not be able to apply. This would lead to a scenario in which only people graduating in even years could serve as Student Regent.
- The position is very demanding. People are able to mitigate its effect on academics for one year, but could become very difficult to mitigate its effect on academics for two years.

#### **Logistical Concerns**

- Who decides if student is offered second year?
  - If the Regents choose, there are some perverse incentives.
  - If students choose, there are some perverse incentives.
- States up to two years, but there is no minimum term.