

RAISE THE AGE MICHIGAN

ONE OF THE LAST.

Michigan is one of only four* states that still **automatically** treats 17-year-olds as adults after committing any crime, big or small. Here are a few reasons why this is wrong:

- Youth that already have adult criminal records are in danger of not getting employed by many businesses.
- Michigan's youth criminal justice system is built with high schoolers in mind, factoring in parent contact, therapy, and studying. The adult system is far less adapting, and has been known to negatively affect mental health.

*Texas, Wisconsin, and Georgia. Missouri passed a law raising their age to 18 that will come into effect in 2021.

RACIAL BIAS

Unfortunately, 17-year-olds of color are incarcerated at a much higher rate than white 17-year-olds.

Youth of color
23%



White youth
77%

Youth of color
53%



White youth
47%

Michigan's 17-year-olds are considered not mature enough to drink, smoke, vote, or enter a legal contract, but they can still be put into adult prisons.

Youth in adult prisons are at the greatest risk of sexual harassment, and are **36** times more likely to commit suicide.

Going through the juvenile criminal justice system is the best thing for Michigan youth.



A North Carolina study estimated that, by raising their age to 18, the state saved \$52 million a year!



All that money that was saved came through lower law enforcement costs.



The economy also benefited from higher lifetime earnings from rehabilitated youth after the change went into effect.