

# RAISE THE AGE



Michigan is one of only four states across the country that automatically prosecutes 17-year-olds as adults for any offense.

## 17-year-olds cannot legally:



Vote in elections



Serve on a



Rent a car



Live independently from parents or guardians



Purchase or use tobacco



Enter a legal contract

**Yet they are automatically charged as adults in the criminal justice system.**

## According to *Youth Behind Bars*:

**60%**

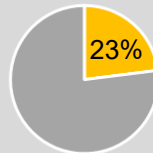
of 17-year-olds were charged for nonviolent offenses

**58%**

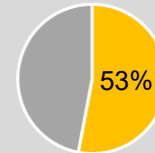
had no prior juvenile record

## Kids of color are overrepresented in the system

Total 17-year-old population



Total 17-year-olds entering state corrections



Kids of color

## Youth in adult prisons are at a higher risk than youth in the juvenile justice system for:

- Sexual assault
- Solitary confinement
- Restraint
- Suicide

## Prosecuting youth as adults is expensive and threatens public safety:

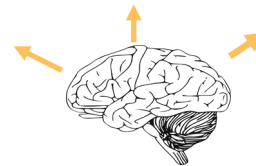
- ◆ Youth prosecuted as adults are 34% more likely to reoffend than youth in the juvenile justice system.
- ◆ Youth prosecuted as adults earn 40% less over their lifetime than youth in the juvenile justice system, which translates in a loss of state tax revenue.
- ◆ Adult convictions lead to lifelong barriers in housing, employment and education.

## Research shows that young brains are still developing and are not the same as adult brains.

Teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively and succumb to peer pressure.

Youth are amenable to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification.

Youth need access to age-appropriate services, like those provided in the juvenile justice system.



## BRIANA'S STORY

[www.raisetheage.org](http://www.raisetheage.org)

Because 17-year-olds are automatically tried in the adult criminal justice system in Michigan, they face lifelong consequences for what are often minor, nonviolent offenses. Briana was one of those 17-year-olds:

"I wish that I could say I have recovered from my criminal history, but the fact is I have not. It follows me at every turn. When applying for my cosmetology license, college, an internship ... It will follow me in all my future career applications. Will I always be paying for the mistakes I have made so many years ago? Will people be able to see past my mistakes and take me seriously?"

**Let's make sure kids like Briana will have a chance to thrive in Michigan. Let's Raise the Age.**

