

Submitter: Mary Chalkiopoulos
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2006

I oppose HB 2006 on the grounds that there is absolutely no internal, sane consistency with Oregon's age-related laws:

- At eighteen, young people can go to war, possess a firearm, enter a legally-binding contract and vote; but they can't legally buy cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs because of lack of judgment.
- At seventeen, young people can't vote, enter into a legally binding contract or purchase a firearm, alcohol or drugs; however, somehow they can be trusted with automobiles.

Insurance rates and statistics tell us that young people, due to lack of judgment and experience, pose the highest risks and pay the highest premiums (or their parents do).

- Now the legislature is proposing bills allowing 16-year-olds to vote. The same 16-year-olds who cannot enter into legally-binding contracts, drive, buy a firearm, alcohol, or drugs.
- Likewise, the legislature is proposing a bill giving 15-year-olds who cannot enter into legally-binding contracts, drive, vote, or buy a firearm, alcohol, or drugs the right to make permanent life altering decisions under the guise of "reproductive HEALTH" which is a complete misnomer for child abuse.

Now we have this bill HB 2006 which seeks to increase the age for purchasing a firearm from 18 to 21. If a person is old enough to go to war, then they are old enough to buy a weapon and have access to all the rights possessed by 21-year-olds.

In fact, if you, the legislature, hold the assertion that 15-year-olds are old enough to make permanent, life altering decisions, then it is incumbent upon you to lower the age allowing legally-binding contracts, participation in the military, gun ownership, driving, alcohol, drug use, and, finally, your favorite - voting! In fact, we should lower the age for public office to 15!