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

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:

- Total 17-year-old population: 23%
- Total 17-year-olds entering state corrections: 53%

Youth in adult prisons are at a higher risk than youth in the juvenile justice system for:
- Sexual assault
- Restraint
- Solitary confinement
- Suicide

Youth are amenable to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification.

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

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

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.

Take Action
wwwraisetheagemiorg

Step 1
Identify a Point Person for Raise the Age Updates and Actions

Step 2
Help Spread the Word Via Newsletters and Social Media

Step 3
Raise the Voices of Impacted Youth and Families

Step 4
Draft an Organizational Position Statement

Step 5
Encourage Support for Raise the Age Among Colleagues, Local Leaders and State Policymakers