The State of Michigan does not allow 17-year-olds to:

1. Drop out of school
2. Enter into a legal contract
3. Enlist in the military without parental consent
4. Serve on a jury
5. Vote in elections
6. Live independently from their parent or guardian
7. Purchase or use tobacco
8. Work in jobs involving cash transactions without adult supervision
9. Access firearms without adult supervision
10. Purchase fireworks
11. Get a tattoo without parental consent
12. Rent a hotel room
13. Purchase a lottery ticket
14. Rent a car
15. Pawn items

Nonetheless...

Michigan requires all 17-year-olds to be charged and treated as adults if arrested for any offense.

Michigan’s lawmakers have determined that children younger than 18 are not yet mature enough to vote, enlist in the military, serve on a jury, sign a binding contract or purchase alcohol. Yet, if they become in trouble with the law, even for a minor, non-violent offense, they are automatically prosecuted as an adult, face a possible prison sentence, and can have a lifelong conviction.

45 other states allow 17-year-olds to access rehabilitative services only available in the juvenile justice system. Of those that have recently amended their laws, increased public safety, cost-savings, and improved outcomes for youth were the reason for the change.

It is time for Michigan to raise the age!