

Resolved,

The following is a NYRA position paper under Section 17 of the NYRA bylaws:

Driving:

To cut down on accidents by young drivers, many states have instituted "graduated license" programs in which driving privileges are limited before drivers turn 18 years of age.

While the National Youth Rights Association sympathizes with the push for auto safety, we also urge that **in an increasingly auto-dependent world, policy should recognize the mobility needs of young people, and programs to acclimate new drivers to the road should not impair that mobility to a greater extent than it has in the past.**

Also, NYRA supports initiatives to allow employers to hire young people to positions that require driving.

Economics:

Contract law and other economic policy must recognize the need for young people to function. **Therefore, National Youth Rights Association urges discussion of the liberalization of laws that govern young people's ability to work with the banking system and contracts.**

Status offenses:

**The National Youth Rights Association opposes on principal any law that punishes young people for something that would not be a crime if committed by the legislators who enacted the law or other legal adults.**

Free speech:

The First Amendment's protections apply to all Americans. Therefore, **The National Youth Rights Association believes that governments must have the burden of proof in showing that any law that restricts the access of young people to any type of text, video or audio literally protects them from a tangible harm.**

Age discrimination:

**The National Youth Rights Association urges the strict enforcement of laws against age discrimination in businesses, including fair hiring laws.**

Entertainment:

We note with dismay the spread of age-based ratings systems in the American entertainment industry. While we understand the need to warn viewers about the content of a show, movie or game, we feel that age-based ratings systems not only fail to do so properly, but deprive young people of

the ability to choose their own entertainment with their own money based on the whims of secret ratings boards, accountable to no one.

**The National Youth Rights Association supports efforts by young people to use our economic strength to bring about an end to age-based ratings systems.** We call for strict enforcement of antitrust and fair business practice laws to prohibit any group from strong-arming any business into following an age-based ratings system.

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This resolution was approved by the NYRA Board of Directors