

(Your Name)

(Your street address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Date)

(Senator, Representative, etc)

(Senate, Congress, etc)

(Street Address, or Building)

(City, State, Zip)

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you to express the importance of legislation to guarantee the rights of legal adults aged 18-20 years who are legally adults except for the consumption of alcohol or tobacco and even in terms of renting automobiles and holding certain governmental job positions. This inequality undermines their status as adults, many of whom are serving our country on the front line, working full-time, paying rent, voting, and having friends and social lives are restricted due to being denied fundamental adulthood rights. Not to mention, this has had a significant impact on American Universities, in terms of drinking culture, excessive policing and law enforcement on college campuses, and frivolous arrests. There is no denying the robust support for LDA 21 and Tobacco 21. How emotion and statistical representation have created an undebatable case for the need for these restrictions, however the biggest fallacies these entities have is the lack of necessity in any other nation, the reliability or authenticity of statistics, and the constitutional and human rights of the class who need to sacrifice. (Hanson) Most important, perhaps when it comes to reducing drunk driving, it can be done with maintaining a drinking age of 18, as drunk driving in Australia had decreased by 80 percent at most since 1987 (TAC) and in Canada since 1986 (gc.ca). Across many studies in the U.S., tobacco use at large has decreased even with the legal age at 18. The same trend can occur if similar measures to reduce cigarette smoking are implanted with new tobacco technologies while maintaining 18 as the legal age of consumption. (CDC).

In the 1980's the Legal Minimum Drinking Age Act was enacted on the promise that it would address drunk driving accidents, which was primarily blamed on the decrease of legal drinking age and its effects on developing brains. Despite all the successes of the Legal Minimum Drinking Age Act, there are many faults in the philosophy carried by their supporters, such as the lack of such legislation in comparable nations, and how the age was returned to 21, the

traditional age of majority in America, which could signify returning to the traditional age rather than objectively sorting out the current issue. More recently has been the passing Tobacco 21, which, much like the Legal Minimum Drinking Age Act, has cajoled all states into adopting a minimum age of 21 for tobacco use, passed by a trillion-dollar spending bill, due to the moral panic of youth tobacco use with the introduction of alternative tobacco forms. Tobacco 21 is a scandalous cause as many supporters of this are friends of the tobacco companies. They opposed the surging market of new forms of smoking and hoped to do away with common-sense regulations of the tobacco industry due to their good deeds of keeping tobacco out of the hands of the most vulnerable (Politico), (New York Times).

Please take the time to consider this grave injustice that is at the expense of American citizens, that ensure unequal treatment under the law and do everything possible to bring justice to these people, and critically question the forces allowing this injustice to thrive.

Sincerely,

(add your name)

1. Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. "Impaired Driving in Canada, 2015 Impaired Driving in Canada, 2015." *Impaired Driving in Canada, 2015*, 14 Dec. 2016, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14679-eng.htm.
2. Hanson, David. "Drinking Age Issue: Minimum Legal Drinking Age Debate." *Alcohol Problems & Solutions*, 30 Jan. 2020, www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/drinking-age-issue/.
3. Kaplan, Sheila. "Senator McConnell, a Tobacco Ally, Supports Raising Age to Buy Cigarettes." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 18 Apr. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/04/18/health/mcconnell-tobacco-vaping-21.html.
4. "Tobacco Product Use Among Adults - United States, 2017." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8 Nov. 2018, www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6744a2.htm.
5. "Transport Accident Commission, Drink Driving Statistics." *TAC*, TAC, 18 Oct. 2017, www.tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/statistics/summaries/drink-driving-statistics.