

A Bill to Implement a Maximum Voting Age

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 **SECTION 1.** A maximum voting age will be implemented at the age of 70 except for
2 voting on referendums.
- 3 **SECTION 2.** The term “maximum voting age” is defined by the maximum age that a
4 person is able to participate in elections.
- 5 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Justice, through its Civil Rights Division, shall oversee
6 the implementation of this legislation in all states.
- 7 **SECTION 4.** The amendment made shall take effect the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year
8 that begins after the date of enactment.
- 9 **SECTION 5.** All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
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This bill respectfully submitted for Congressional Debate by East Ridge High School.

CURRENTLY IN AMERICA, IT IS ILLEGAL FOR THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO VOTE AS A RESULT OF "DIMINISHED CAPACITY". THOSE WHO ARE YOUNGER ARE UNABLE TO PARTAKE IN THIS PROCESS BECAUSE THEY HAVE IMPAIRED DECISION MAKING FUNCTIONS AND ARE NOT ACTIVE CITIZENS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. HOWEVER, THIS IS AN ISSUE BECAUSE THOSE OF THESE YOUNGER AGES HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS THAN OLDER CITIZENS. THESE OLDER CITIZENS ARE ABLE TO VOTE FOR A PRESIDENT THAT NEWER GENERATIONS DO NOT APPROVE OF, JUST BECAUSE THEY FIT THE STANDARD OF "OVER 18". HOWEVER, BY ANALYZING THE ASPECTS OF OLDER GENERATIONS, THE FACTS INCREASINGLY SHOW THAT OLDER GENERATIONS ALSO FIT THE DESCRIPTION OF "DIMINISHED CAPACITY". IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THIS BILL BECAUSE THOSE OVER 70 HAVE DEGRADED BRAIN FUNCTION, THUS THEY ARE ILL FITTED TO VOTE CLEARLY, AND BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT BE IMPACTED BY THE LONG TERM REPERCUSSIONS OF NATIONAL DECISIONS.

FIRST, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MAXIMUM VOTING AGE SET AT 70 YEARS OF AGE IS PARAMOUNT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS BECAUSE BRAIN FUNCTION DETERIORATES AT THIS AGE. ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE TITLED "AGEING AND THE BRAIN" BY R PETERS ON NCBI, THE REDUCTION OF BRAIN VOLUME IS SEEN TO INCREASE WITH AGE, PARTICULARLY OVER THE AGE OF 70. THE ARTICLE FURTHER CONTRIBUTES THAT A STUDY WAS CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BRAIN VOLUME AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTION. THIS STUDY DETERMINED AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN INCREASING AGE, A REDUCTION IN PREFRONTAL CORTICAL VOLUME, INCREASED SUBCORTICAL WHITE MATTER LESIONS, AND AN INCREASE IN PERSEVERATIVE BEHAVIOUR. THE MAIN ISSUE WITH BRAIN VOLUME DETERIORATION IS THAT THE PREFRONTAL CORTICAL VOLUME, OR PREFRONTAL CORTEX, IS GREATLY IMPACTED BY AGING FOUND ESPECIALLY OVER THE AGE OF 70. THE PREFRONTAL CORTEX IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF DECISION MAKING; IN FACT, IT IS THE AREA OF THE BRAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISION MAKING, ALONG WITH NUMEROUS OTHER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT. IT IS CLEAR TO SEE WHY A LACK OF DECISION MAKING FUNCTION AS A RESULT OF BRAIN DETERIORATION IS SO DETRIMENTAL TO A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM: IF A POPULACE HAS DEBILITATED DECISION MAKING SKILLS, THEY ARE UNABLE TO CHOOSE PRESIDENTIAL, SENATE, AND HOUSE CANDIDATES WISELY. ALTHOUGH THIS BILL BARRS THOSE OVER 70 FROM PARTAKING IN SUCH NATIONAL EVENTS, IT IS TRUE THAT THOSE OVER THE AGE OF 70 SHOULD STILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE ON LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THEM. THEREFORE, THEY ARE ABLE TO PARTAKE IN REFERENDUMS, WHICH IS VOTING FOR PROPOSED

LEGISLATION. THUS, BECAUSE THE BRAIN DETERIORATION FOUND IN THE POPULACE OF ABOVE 70 HAS BEEN FOUND TO DECREASE DECISION MAKING, THIS BILL SHOULD BE DISCUSSED.

SECOND, THOSE OVER 70 WILL NOT BE IMPACTED BY THE LONG TERM REPERCUSSIONS OF NATIONAL DECISIONS. CURRENTLY, THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IS 79 YEARS. SEEING AS MOST INDIVIDUALS OVER THE AGE OF 70 WILL HAVE LESS THAN 10 YEARS LEFT TO LIVE, IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THEY WILL NOT BE IMPACTED BY THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF NATIONAL DECISIONS. THERE SHOULD BE AN AGE CAP BECAUSE THESE OLDER CITIZENS, AGED 70+, ARE DECIDING HOW TO RUN A COUNTRY THAT FRANKLY WON'T BE THEIRS FOR MUCH LONGER. AS A SOCIETY, WE ARE CONSTANTLY IMPROVING AND EVOLVING AS WE LEARN MORE THINGS ABOUT OURSELVES AND OUR PLANET SO IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR AN OLDER GENERATION, WHO MIGHT BE ILL FITTED OR IGNORANT, TO VOTE FOR OUR PRESIDENT.

DESPITE PREVIOUS EVIDENCE, SOME MAY ARGUE THAT THOSE OVER 70 ARE CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS TO AMERICAN SOCIETY BECAUSE THEY PAY TAXES. THIS CAN BE SEEN FROM AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN TAX FOUNDATION BY SCOTT HODGE IN 2010, WHICH CONCLUDE THAT THOSE 65 AND OVER PAY A TOTAL AMOUNT OF 162 BILLION DOLLARS IN TAXES, WHILE THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 PAY A TOTAL OF 1 BILLION IN TAX DOLLARS. ALTHOUGH THIS AT FACE VALUE CAN INDICATE THAT, BECAUSE THE ELDERLY ARE ABLE TO PAY 162 TIMES THE AMOUNT OF THE YOUTHS, THE ELDERLY ARE INTEGRAL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, AND THUS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE. HOWEVER, LOOKING AT TAX SPENDING ON CERTAIN AGE GROUPS PAINTS A BETTER PICTURE. ACCORDING TO POLITIFACT IN 2013, THE ELDERLY ARE ALLOCATED 1.2 TRILLION DOLLARS IN TAX REVENUE WHEREAS CHILDREN ARE ALLOCATED A MERE 444.7 BILLIONS DOLLARS. TAKING THE DIFFERENCE FROM BOTH STATISTICS SHOWS THAT THERE IS A NET DEFICIT OF TAX SPENT ON ELDERLY VERSES TAXES TAKEN FROM THE ELDERLY OF 1.038 TRILLION TAX DOLLARS IN DEFICIT, WHEREAS THE NUMBER IS ONLY 443.7 BILLION TAX DOLLARS IN DEFICIT. THIS SHOWS THAT, OVERALL, THE ELDERLY ARE A MUCH HEAVIER BURDEN ON AMERICAN SOCIETY THAN CHILDREN. THUS, LIKE CHILDREN, SINCE THEY PUT AN OVERWHELMING BURDEN ON AMERICAN TAX DOLLARS, THE ELDERLY SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE.