

Judiciary 3/7/19
La Shawn Erby



March 6, 2019

We, at Black Lives Matter Michigan, support the passage of Raise the Age Bills. We know that 17 years olds cannot vote until age 18; just as we know that brains are not fully developed for the best decision making until age 25.

Youth in adult facilities are more likely to be traumatized and victimized by older inmates when they are housed together. Several youth have recorded testimony about their abuse in state care.

We are particularly concerned because we know that although Black youth make up about 20% of our own Ingham County population, about 74% of detained youth are Black. We need the Michigan House and Senate to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

We thank you in advance!