

**RESOLUTION NO. R19-3155**

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners  
Macomb County, Michigan*

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RAISING THE AGE  
OF JUVENILE JURISDICTION FROM 17 TO 18**

Commissioner Andrey Duzyj, on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,  
Offers the Following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners believes that children are a vital and valuable resource and investing in each of them is investing in our collective future; and

**WHEREAS**, youth are developmentally different from adults and these differences are documented by research on the adolescent brain and acknowledged by many state and federal laws that treat youth disparately based on their age and stage of development; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan remains one of four states in the U.S. that automatically prosecutes 17-year-olds as adults regardless of the severity of the crime, which is unaligned with national best practice and recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan recognizes 18 as the age of adulthood in almost all other areas of criminal and civil law and prohibits 17-year-olds from voting, renting hotel rooms and purchasing tobacco, fireworks or lottery tickets, among other restricted items; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of 17-year-olds entering the criminal justice system are arrested for nonviolent, misdemeanor offenses, of which many would be eligible for diversion in the juvenile justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, national research on adolescent brain development shows that teens are more inclined to take risks, act impulsively, and succumb to peer pressure, which may lead to delinquent behavior, yet are very responsive to rehabilitative programs and behavior modification during these formative years; and

**WHEREAS**, national research shows youth tried before an adult court were 44 percent more likely to be re-arrested for felony property crimes and 85 percent more likely to be re-arrested for violent crimes compared to those tried before a juvenile court; and

**WHEREAS**, in states that raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18, the projected costs were consistently overstated, and those states have instead contained and reallocated costs to approaches that keep young people in the community, reduced confinement, and improved community safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the juvenile justice system provides the developmentally appropriate community-based programs, services, monitoring and sanctions that are designed to rehabilitate, and encourage family involvement in treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, a funding mechanism for the proposed change in legislation is currently being investigated through various platforms regarding the additional expenses that may be incurred by providing juvenile justice services to 17-year-olds and may exceed the current amount expended by counties on juvenile justice services.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners hereby supports raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 17 to 18 and further urges the Legislature to explore and adopt an appropriate funding mechanism through the Department of Health and Human Services to cover the additional costs associated with increasing the age of the juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18; and

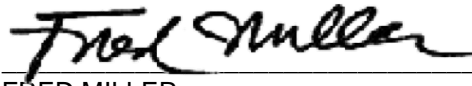
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Macomb County Juvenile Court Director, all members of the Macomb County State Legislative Delegation and the Michigan Association of Counties.



ANDREY DUZYJ  
District 1, Board of Commissioners



BOB SMITH  
Chair, Board of Commissioners



FRED MILLER  
Clerk/Register of Deeds

***Adopted: April 18, 2019***