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The debate on lowering the drinking age has been going on since the mid 1980’s when it was first raised to 21. Some argue that it should be lowered back to 18 because that is the age in the United States when someone is legally mandated as an adult. When you reach the age of 18, you are able to vote, smoke cigarettes, serve on juries, get married, sign contracts, be prosecuted as adults, and join the military - which involves life-threatening activities. So then, if an 18-year-old can fire an AK-47 at another human being with the intent to kill, why can’t that same person enjoy a glass of wine while out to dinner with family? Furthermore, it has been suggested that lowering the MLDA 21 would benefit our economy in its state of recession because it would be legal for more people to drink in public places such as bars, restaurants, and other licensed establishments. Hence, revenue would skyrocket as well as publicity for the location, benefitting business owners and raising the government’s tax revenue.

Although there has been a steady buzz around lowering the drinking age and various arguments to justify it, there is no way it would benefit the United States. MLDA 21 has been estimated to have saved over 27,000 lives in the U.S. from 1975-2008 on our country’s highways and roads. Evidence shows that The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found a positive correlation between higher legal drinking ages and lower rates of traffic accidents; 100 out of 102 analyses (98%) to be exact. Even still, it may seem to people that “everyone” wants the drinking age lowered, similar to the mob mentality thought process that “everyone is doing it (drinking),” when in fact, it is quite the opposite. A 2007 poll found that 77% of Americans would oppose a federal law that lowers the drinking age to 18 in all 50 states. It must be observed that lowering the drinking age to 18 would do far more damage as opposed to the wishfully thought out idea that teenagers would lose their attraction to it and not utilize it for rebellious activity.