

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to SB086
(Raise the Age Act of 2023)

This bill sends mixed signals to our young adults that are downright insulting. At eighteen, they are old enough to vote, go to jail, own a house, buy Lotto with their own credit card, pay child support, kill and be murdered in war. How are they not old enough to possess rifles and ammunition?

“While performing official duties,” soldiers can be trusted with REAL assault rifles...M-16 machine guns, not these watered down civilian AR-15’s that everyone gets riled up about (not to mention tanks, helicopters and missiles). We trust our lives to their adult judgment while on duty, but if they want to shoot a round of skeet while on leave with their comrades, they are treated as second class children who we don’t trust with shotguns?

I am not an expert at reading legalese like this, however I do not see a provision for dealing with the young adults in Maryland who already legally own rifles, shotguns, and ammunition but are not yet twenty-one years of age.

If the judgement of eighteen to twenty-one year olds in Maryland cannot be trusted to handle rifles, shotguns, and ammunition unsupervised (as they can in the rest of the country), we should not allow them to vote on their own either. I will happily volunteer to help as many eighteen through twenty-one year olds with their voting, for the safety of all of us.

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