

Dear Sir/Ma'am—

I am a Doctor of Psychology and I find this bill unfavorable for multiple reasons: (1) The frontal lobe of the human brain is not completely developed until early to mid-20's. The frontal lobe will eventually control inhibition, emotional response, decision-making, and long-term planning. When the frontal lobe matures in the early to mid-20's, the person will then be able to control impulses, sexual urges, set goals, and determine right from wrong. (2) Pre-exposing a child to the circumstances described in this bill will surely cause grave, irreparable damages to a brain still in development. (3) It is an act of abuse to place a human person under the age of 25, in a situation where he/she would be making an irreversible/life-altering decision before he/she is able to fully understand the consequences of their decision (with or without a parent's consent). (4) This country requires age limits on driving, voting, joining the military, purchasing tobacco and alcohol, and other types of activities for a reason... the person is not old enough to grasp the responsibilities tied to their actions so anyone who promotes or fosters these activities before the age limits given is guilty of violating the law but in this particular situation it would be a human rights violation to condone, endorse, promote, allow, or facilitate any of the proposed items in this bill prior to the age of brain maturity. (5) The psychological effects of these very serious proposals would be, and are, devastating to the mental/physical/spiritual health and wellbeing of those unable to realize brain maturity as it is meant to naturally unfold with time.

Very Respectfully,

Cynthia Sena-Martinez, MSCP, ISD, PhD