

Jan. 21, 1969

Dear Mr. Dole,

I am very concerned about the idea of lowering the voting age to 18. My husband shares my veiws. This frightens us very nearly as much as the fact that we may be on the verge of loosing our right to bear arms and protect our home.

I am not against teenagers as we have four of our own, one of each sex over 18 and two girls under. However, we would most assuredly not turn over the managing of our home to them. We discuss the family matters with them but my husband and myself reserve the right to make the decisions.

I will agree, the 18 year olds today are much more learned in books than ever before, but certainly not in common sense or experience.

What has come over the leaders of our nation today that they are turning over the running of the schools and the lawmaking to the teenagers. Have they lost faith in adults?

I have heard the big argument that at age 18 they are eligible for the draft, therefore, should be given the vote. However, this is not exactly so. They are eligible, but they are not drafted until they are 19 or over, tho some do enlist, then they are put through months of training, which makes them much nearer 20 than 18. Which is a mighty big difference.

It is possible for any girl over 14 (most, even younger) to become a mother, why not lower the voting age to 14? This makes her just as much an adult as a boy being old enough to join the army.

I cannot possibly see how anyone can be eligible to vote until they have had responsibilities, held a job, and paid taxes, which very few 18 year olds have done. They could actually vote their parents into some dreadful situations because they listen, at this age, to what anyone but their parents tell them, and they are so very easily swayed to "join the group".

It seems that age and experience mean very little anymore, we have placed the young, untrained and unexperience on the pedestal. I do beleive the age of permissiveness in the home is now bearing its fruit.

Even tho they are better schooled than ever before, please, lets let them grow up before handing over the reins to them. I doubt that they truly even want this heavy responsibility.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Darrell Peters  
3413 17th St.  
Great Bend, Kansas 67530

RECEIVED

JAN 25 1969

BOB DOLE

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Terry Howard

3129 Haskell

Kansas City, Kansas 66104  
ZIP CODE

Dear Senator Dole:

SENATOR BOB DOLE  
**RECEIVED**  
MAY 16 1969  
**RECEIVED**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

May 13, 1969

Democracy is a very fragile thing. It is very easy to smother its flame in our efforts to preserve it from the violent winds of change. Of this our country must beware. It seems to me that we presently have a situation in America that is inconsistent with the principles of representative government. Young men between the ages of 18 and 21 are liable to involuntary military service, yet have no voice in their government. If these young men are not to be permitted to vote on the country's actions, then they should not be required to take on their shoulders the responsibility for carrying out those actions. They are either adults capable of taking part in the decision-making process, or they are children and not responsible for the country's defense. This double standard under the present system is highly undemocratic and must be corrected.

There are two obvious possibilities for action, either the voting age should be lowered to include those of draft age, or, preferably, the draft system, itself of questionable merit in a democratic society, should be revoked. Unless America is willing to put the lie to her democratic rhetoric before the world and before her own people, some action must be taken. You, sir, as a legislator are responsible for keeping the term representative government meaningful. I expect no more but no less of you.

Sincerely,

*Terry Howard*

*Note for 18  
year olds.  
also mention draft*