

## Legislative

### Pros:

**United States of America . Pennsylvania: Department of Labor & Industry . Philadelphia : Commonwealth of Pennsylvania , 1997. Web. 19 Jan 2011.**

<<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=553526&mode=2>>.

The Pennsylvania Curfew Law prevents adolescents under the age of 18 for students to be outside or not in their place of residency past a certain time. It became a law in 1999. The purpose of the law was to reduce juvenile crime and thus promote the community welfare, to reduce perpetration of crime on juveniles that may be vulnerable during curfew hours, and promote and support the parent-child relationship and provide an additional layer of supervision when appropriate. In Philadelphia teens under the age of 18 are not allowed to stay outside on weekdays past 11pm, and on weekends past the time of 1am. This has a positive effect on my life because I know that Philadelphia is a safer place. I don't have to worry about any of my friends getting shot or in violent situations because police will have it under control.

### *Drinking Law*

**"Minimum Legal Drinking Ages Around the World."** *Alcohol Problems and Solutions*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Jan 2011. <<http://www2.potsdam.edu/hanson/dj/legaldrinkingage.html>>.

In the state of Pennsylvania, the legal drinking age is 21. Though people under the age of 21 can drink for reasons such as an established religious purpose or medical purpose, it isn't freely accepted unless a parent or guardian is present. The law states that under the age of 21 without probable purpose "shall not attempt to purchase, consume, possesses or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor, malt or brewed beverages." If caught doing such things, a person can be held in jail, as well as made to pay a fine. This law positively affects me because this law is sets in black or whites either your old enough to drink or your not. Which ultimately means if you break the law, your breaking the law so many teens drink underage and that's just another story on the 10 o'clock news about some teen killing an innocent person because they were driving drunk. Another story would be some drunk kid puling a gun on someone incent because drinking impairs good judgment. But this directly affects me because I can know that going out or driving my parents or me am safer on the road.

## **Cons:**

### **Parents Right to Know Act of 2009**

The Parent's Right to Know Act of 2009 is a legislation that makes it illegal for anyone such as a doctor to give drugs or other things health related to minors. This impacted me because I was diagnosed with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and the best solution for that to regulate my hormone levels would be birth control. My doctor couldn't give it to me without telling my mother because it was birth control and that negatively impacts me because I have to find away to get it without my mother flipping out thinking its for some other reason.

### **Voting Law**

[http://www.declareyourself.com/voting\\_faq/state\\_by\\_state\\_info\\_2.html#P](http://www.declareyourself.com/voting_faq/state_by_state_info_2.html#P)

The voting age in the US is 18 this is a con because I have opinions about politics that should matter, but they don't. America believes that 16 year olds don't have enough sense to know what is going on in the world but we have more sense then the people who can vote. This negatively affects me because I have ideas and thoughts, but no one ever thinks about what the minor's think unless they are asking the minor's parents, and even then, the parents may not know the entire story.

## **Judicial**

### **Pros:**

#### **Statutory Rape Law**

"PA Consolidated Statutes : Definition of Specific Offenses." Haverford Students EDU. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jan 2011.

<<http://students.haverford.edu/masar/documents/PARapeLaws.pdf>>.

According to the Pennsylvania Laws that refer to statutory rape. It is against the law engage in sexual intercourse with someone under the age of 16 if you four or more years older than that person. This law has directly impacted my life, because I know that I will be safe in not messing with people older than me. This just doesn't goes for 16 year olds this is for anybody. I especially hate perverts in the street that stare too much and make me feel uncomfortable. I like that this is a law that would definitely scare them off.

**Unites States of America . Brown v. Board of Education. Washington D.C : , 1995. Web. 19 Jan 2011. <http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/ceo/nclb/>**

Brown v. Board of Education was one of the first steps in the education equality, and civil rights of African Americans. Affects me in a positive way because I am now able to have class with peers of a different race. This case fought for that. I should not be denied admission into any school simply because I am an African American. This is the reason you find several clauses on the ends of college applications stating equality.

## Cons:

### ***New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985)***

"NEW JERSEY V. T.L.O., 469 U. S. 325 (1985)." *Justia.com*. U.S. Supreme Court Center, n.d. Web. 19 Jan 2011. <<http://supreme.justia.com/us/469/325/case.html>>.

In 1985, a New Jersey high school student was arrested as a result of a search and seizure conducted by her assistant vice-principal. The constitutionality of the search was questioned and ultimately the Supreme Court faced the task of establishing parameters for searches and seizures in schools. This brought up questions of whether students in school have the same rights under the 4th Amendment as adults? Does "probable cause" have to be established for the search of a student in school, or is "reasonable cause" enough? In this case, the court sided with the school.

This definitely negatively impacts my life because I wouldn't want a teacher or principal or anybody for that matter searching through my phone. Not saying that there is something to hide in the phone its just that is personal and it's one thing to have it taken because You were using it, but there is no probable cause as to why you would need to go through my phone.

### **Grutter vs. Bollinger: "Landmark Supreme Court Cases About Students." US Courts. Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, 2011. Web. 12 Jan 2011.**

<<http://www.uscourts.gov/EducationalResources/ConstitutionResources/LegalLandmarks/LandmarkSupremeCourtCasesAboutStudents.aspx>>.

Grutter vs. Bollinger is a court ruling in which a student believed that her equal rights were being violated when she wasn't admitted into a college because they were trying to diversify their school by allowing admittance to a certain percentage of different races. Courts ruled in favor of the college stating that they had a right to diversify their school. This has a direct impact on me because, applying for college, I don't want to second guess myself on whether I will be accepted based on my race.

This is a con for me because assuming that I meet all of the school's requirements and there is another applicant of a different race with the same credentials, the school then has the option of choosing based upon the percentage of each race being admitted at

the time and choose the candidates based on their race.

## **Executive**

### **Pros:**

#### **Driving Permit Qualification Age**

"PennDOT Driver and Vehicle Services - Young Drivers." Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. PennDOT, n.d. Web. 20 Jan 2011.

<[http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/young\\_drivers/young\\_driver\\_faq.shtml#Q01](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/young_drivers/young_driver_faq.shtml#Q01)>.

In Pennsylvania the age to receive a permit is 16 and because of this law I was able to receive my permit and also am eligible to receive my license. In some states the law is a person has to be 18 in order to get a license and in other states the minimum is actually younger than 16. Without this law, I may not have been able to receive my permit at the age that I did so this law is quite positive in my life.

### **Cons:**

**"Federal Student Aid - About Us." Federal Student Aid. N.p., Jun. 28,2010. Web. 18 Jan 2011.** <<http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/about/index.html>>.

FAFSA is the nationwide acronym for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded financial assistance for education beyond high school, such as college. Federal Student Aid is essential when enrolling role in postsecondary education by providing money for college to eligible students and families. Governmental FAFSA partners with postsecondary schools, financial institutions to deliver services that provide federal monies for school only. This is positive for a lot of people but not for me, my mom is a teacher and makes a good amount of money but that doesn't necessarily means that she is going to pay my way through college ad that leaves me in a bind because according to the FASFA rules I have to use their information and probably wont get any money

## **The PSSA**

"Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Test." Math and Reading Help For Kids. Achievement House Charter, 2003-2011. Web. 16 Jan 2011.

<[http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/Pennsylvania\\_System\\_of\\_School\\_Assessment\\_Test\\_\(PSSA\).html](http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/Pennsylvania_System_of_School_Assessment_Test_(PSSA).html)[http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/Pennsylvania\\_System\\_of\\_School\\_Assessment\\_Test\\_\(PSSA\).html](http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/Pennsylvania_System_of_School_Assessment_Test_(PSSA).html)>.

The PSSA testing system is a standardized test that all of the students in the Pennsylvania Public School System are mandated to take. This test is one of the main things colleges choose their decision from, personally I know that this test does not accurately depict my true knowledge but it was one factor that held me back from getting into my first choice college