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Should The Legal Age of Alcohol Consumption be Lowered?

The legal age to drink alcohol is 21 due to “the 1984 National Minimum Drinking Age Act [which] requires that States prohibit persons under 21 years of age from purchasing or publicly possessing alcoholic beverages” ( APIS 1). The government has put this in place for every state or they will lose federal highway funds given to them. The legal age of twenty-one does not keep under-age people from drinking alcohol due to situations such as fake ID’s or older people purchasing the alcohol for them. Even though the older people are, the more responsible they should be, it does not help in this situation. Young adults have enough common sense to realize how to deal with their alcohol. Therefore, the legal age of alcohol consumption should be lowered to eighteen since that is when everyone is considered a responsible adult.

Decreasing the age of alcohol consumption would give more responsibility to young adults and it would also make them want to be more responsible. By lowering the drinking age, “[young adults] might be forced to first experience alcohol with their parents, in safe places like their own homes”( Rogerson 1). If they see how alcohol should be handled, they would not go and act a fool when they turn twenty-one. Instead, they go out and see how drunk they can get in public because they have never had this opportunity before. Lowering the age would “decrease death in America at a rate of 1.4 in 100,000 people”( Rogerson 1) which will make everyone more happy and feel more safe about drinking situations whether publicly or in their own homes. Also by lowering the drinking age, it will reduce binge-drinking because it “will help slow the need for pre-gaming”( Cary 1). Many young adults have to drink in their homes excessively before they go out or to a public event due to them not being able to drink there. Since they have to drink before events, it causes them to drink an unsafe amount of alcohol so that they will still feel good whenever they are at the event. Reducing the age would cause people to be more responsible about their drinking activities.

The legal age to drink of twenty-one makes sure everyone has the responsibility by living a few adult years before being able to consume alcohol legally. This will teach young adults to be more responsible with their drinking and it will help them realize how unsafe drinking can be if it is not monitored carefully. Ever since the law that changed the drinking age to twenty one was put into place, “the number of young people killed annually in crashes involving drunk drivers under twenty one has been cut in half”( Mooney 1). It has decreased the number of individuals able to purchase alcohol therefore the number of accidents and injuries due to drunk driving has decreased. Another big problem of the age being lowered is that most eighteen year olds are still in high school. This leads to them distributing the alcohol to other young students and it also effects their studying habits while they are still in high school. It effects their abilities in academics due to “negatively [effecting] all parts of the brain”(Mooney 1). This makes them unable to remember large amounts of information and their ability to think complexly. The age of twenty-one helps decrease the number of car accidents and helps the brain function more accurately than it would by consuming alcoholic beverages. It has many benefits, but it also has a lot of downfalls also.

Even though keeping the age of twenty-one to consume alcohol has it’s perks, lowering the age to eighteen would make many people happy and it would teach responsibility. It would keep people from committing unlawful acts such as using fake ID’s or drinking illegally in public. People often complain of being a legal adult but not being able to consume alcohol or even purchase it. This makes many people feel as if the government does not give young adults the responsibility and privileges that they deserve. The government worries about young adults drinking and wrecking, but this happens in all ages. Young adults would be more prone to calling a cab or a designated driver due to them not wanting to get in trouble their first few years of adulthood. The older people get, the less they care about getting in trouble because they have money to get themselves out of jail. Young adults such as eighteen year olds worry about getting put in jail due to careless alcohol mistakes. Their parents do not want to bail them out or pay any fees or fines they get. Therefore, they are more careful with their drinking and their actions. The government should take these ideas and change the legal age of drinking alcohol to eighteen.

The government should change the legal age to consume alcohol from twenty one to eighteen because it would benefit everyone in the United States. It would greatly decrease the number of deaths due to driving under the influence and even the number of injuries from doing so. It would make many people way happier with the government which could even lead to them voting more and helping choose political ideas. If someone has enough responsibility and is old enough to vote, then they should be old and responsible enough to consume and purchase alcohol. It will help out the country by teaching better responsibility and giving them more freedom that they desire. It would also be less of a hassle for bar owners and owners of stores that sell alcohol. They would not have to deal with people stealing or trying to sneak around them and then end up having to call the police. Overall, changing the legal age to drink alcohol and to also purchase it would benefit the country significantly due to many different positive reasons.

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