

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

IN RECOGNITION OF RAISING THE AGE OF JUVENILE JURISDICTION

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, since the early 19th century, North Carolina has recognized the need for a separate juvenile justice system – to protect children from the influence of incarcerated adults; to focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment; and to help children, families, and society; and

WHEREAS, nearly 100 years have passed since juvenile jurisdiction in North Carolina was set to end at 16 years of age; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that most young people who commit criminal acts will mature beyond such behavior; scientific research on brain development shows that the frontal cortex, which helps with impulse control, does not fully develop in young adults until their early twenties; and

WHEREAS, in response to research which suggests that both youthful offenders and society benefit when persons under 18 are treated in the juvenile justice system, every state has raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16 and 17-year-old children; and

WHEREAS, raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in North Carolina promises long-term economic and public safety benefits – for example, children adjudicated in the juvenile system show a decreased rate of recidivism, eliminating future costs of imprisonment; and, with no criminal record, these individuals have more opportunities to increase earning potential, pursue higher education, and boost career prospects; and

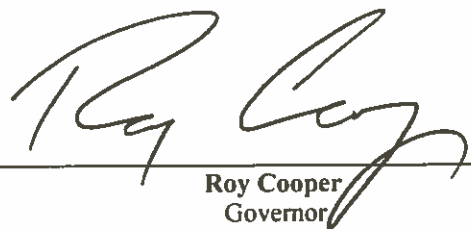
WHEREAS, North Carolina's juvenile justice system offers professional expertise in adolescent behavior, community-specific programming designed to reduce recidivism in juveniles with developing brains, and mandated work to strengthen families in our state; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017 session of the North Carolina General Assembly – with strong support from all branches of state government, law enforcement partners, non-profit advocacy organizations, and research institutions – North Carolina raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for nonviolent crimes to 18; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes the value of raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 to 18, congratulates the bipartisan group of stakeholders who worked tirelessly toward this important change, and charges all those involved with implementing the new law to do so with continued support for young people and public safety in mind;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2017, as a day “**IN RECOGNITION OF RAISING THE AGE OF JUVENILE JURISDICTION**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.