2 MINUTE ADVOCACY ASK

Raise the Age

Be a voice for children!

The Ask: Ask House Rules to vote YES to get the “Raise the Age Act”, House Bill 462 up for a vote by the full house.

The Bill: HB 462 creates a multi-agency implementation committee to change the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to encompass non-violent 17-year-olds who are first-time offenders.

The Why:

- In juvenile court, more so than in adult court, a 17-year-old is much more likely to be mandated to attend school, make restitution to victims and attend community-based rehabilitative programs that focus on the causes of the problem behavior.
- The vast majority of offenses committed by 17-year-olds are misdemeanors.
- Raising the age will improve youth outcomes, save taxpayer dollars, and make our state safer by solving problems in an effective way.
- Studies about brain development support the idea of keeping youth who commit offenses in juvenile court until at least age 17.
- The juvenile justice system does a better job than the adult system of holding young people accountable when they commit minor offenses.
- Current law shuts out parents of 17-year-olds. These children -and their parents- deserve the opportunity to navigate the court system as a family, with full parental rights intact.
- Georgia is one of the last three states (along with Texas and Wisconsin) that processes all 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system.

**If HB 462 passes, serious offenders 13 and older will continue to be processed in adult court.**

- Click Here for our Groovy Factsheet on RTA!