

Are there changes to current state and/or federal laws regarding safe driving that you would like to see implemented? Why?

A federal law related to driving that I think needs to be changed is the current age minimum at which people are allowed to receive their driver's license. In almost all other countries, the legal driving age begins at 18, yet here in the U.S. it is only 16 years old. I personally feel that this is too young and that teens of that age are not yet mature enough to make smart decisions regarding driving. Although I was continually pressured to get my license as soon as I turned 16, I waited until my senior year of high school. I did this not to prove a point, but because I waited until I felt ready. I understand that everyone is different, but I tend to be viewed as mature for my age, and I still felt way too immature to be driving at 16 years old. Handling a car is a substantial responsibility and by allowing teens to drive, their life, as well as everyone else's on the road, are being put at danger. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reported that, "in 2019, 61 percent of deaths among passenger vehicle occupants ages 16-19 were drivers." This is valuable evidence as to why 16 year old children should not be allowed to attain a driver's license. In fact, they also state that "In the United States, the fatal crash rate per mile driven for 16-19 year-olds is nearly 3 times the rate for drivers ages 20 and over." All these statistics lead to the conclusion that younger drivers are more likely to crash, yet America has still failed to raise the age minimum. In recent years, other age minimums such as those to buy tobacco and nicotine products have been raised from 18 to 21 years old. This was done so to protect America's youth and prevent premature deaths, so following that logic, the minimum driving age should be raised as well. I believe that by doing so, the roads would be a safer place and there would be less teen deaths.