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We the teenagers feel that our rights have been deprived too long. For many years we have lived in this fine world abiding and living by the rules set for us by others that deem themselves far wiser than ourselves. Who wants to live by regulations that they themselves didn’t have at least a hand in putting in place? The nation that created the laws that restrict teenagers were at one time being controlled by laws instituted by others as well. What did they do when oppressed by these laws? They created uproar across the land. They created war. Our intent is not to create chaos or war. Our intent is to create peace. We want to create equality and justice for all teenagers. Many rights would grant us freedom. Freedom that many adults say would be catastrophic if given to the younger generation. However, many of these freedoms would free the adults that care for us from some of their caregiving. By giving us the freedoms we can handle, we would be helping more than just ourselves.

I. We request the right to receive our drivers license at the age of fourteen and above if driver’s education and the driving test is taken and passed. Many teenagers are mature enough and good enough drivers at the age of fourteen to drive safely. The decrease of points that would be required to pass would ensure that only the safest fourteen year old drivers are receiving their license. This right would free many teenagers as well as their parents and guardians. Once in high school the amount of activities teens are involved in increases and having a driver’s license would be very convenient. Along with this right we accept that for anyone under the age of sixteen, the passing score will be moved to under seven points.

II. We request the right to open campus lunch. Allowing students to leave campus for lunch would increase business for local restaurants and establishments that sell food. This would help to boost our local economy helping the entire town.In order to receive this right we will be required to apply with the office and be accepted. When applying we will be required to write a short essay, attach two references that believe you are mature enough, and have signed permission from a parent or guardian. If students are ever late to school or do not come back to school after lunch, their open campus privileges will be revoked and a detention will be served.

III. We request that for teens in Spring Valley High School lunch period be moved from thirty-five minutes to fifty-five minutes extending it twenty minutes in total. Increasing lunch period would allow teens to eat slower and not rush themselves in order to have time to have leisure time. Eating slowly allows the brain to register when the stomach is full not allowing the individual to overeat. If teens start to develop habits of eating slowly in school they will suffer less from being obese, decreasing childhood obesity rates which is a current concern of all citizens. In order enjoy a longer lunch we understand that we will have to extend the hours of the school day. We propose that seven minutes be added to the beginning of the day and thirteen minutes be added at the end of the day to make up for time used by lunch hour.

IV. We request that on warm days, free of precipitation teens in Spring Valley High School would be allowed to go outside to each their lunch. This would allow teens to receive fresh air during the day which would be good for our health. Also by allowing teens to enjoy the outdoors we will be better focused after lunch. We realize that this freedom would cause more work for janitors and lunch staff because they would have to clean up two lunch areas. In order not to burden them we will set up lunch clean up crews of different students and assign them to make sure the area outside we eat at gets cleaned up each day.

V. We request that the Wisconsin law that restricts minors to work between the hours 7 AM and 7 PM on non school days be moved to 6 AM to 10 PM. The hour changes will take into consideration that some jobs start earlier, like at a bakery, while others have later hours, like a restaurant. The hour change will increase the types of jobs available to teens. This will make getting a job easier for teens because they can better compete for the job without hour restrictions. In order to receive this right we agree that there will be an application much like a work permit that would need to be filled out. The application would need to included reason for extension of hours and signature of employer and parents.

VI. We request that the legal working age be moved from sixteen years old to fourteen years old with restriction of only an application. Many simple tasks like running a microwave cannot be done even with a work permit unless you are sixteen. This fact seems almost preposterous, but this rule and many like it currently restrict teens. Fourteen year olds are definitely capable of having a job. Also by moving the working age to fourteen it would also allow all high school age students to have the opportunity to have a job to pay for sports, clothing, and other high school expenses. This would lessen the burden put on teens parents and guardians to pay for everything. In order to gain this right we accept that an application will need to be filled out and gain approval in order to work at fourteen years old. In the application teens will have to explain why they need the right, proof of employment, and parental consent.

VII. We request that teens in Wisconsin have the right to move the probationary license from nine months to six months. Many teens are very responsible, safe drivers and a probationary license does not serve much learning purpose after six months. If teens were taken off of the probationary license sooner, they will also be able to carpool to school, sports, or other events. This would save gas and eliminate excess air pollution, a point often stressed by government lawmakers. Shortening the length of time the probationary license is in place would allow teens to have a hand in the carpool movement. Of course, to be granted the ability to receive this right, the teen will have to score a five or lower on their driver’s test making minimal mistakes. This will ensure that only the safest drivers will have a shorted probationary time and be rewarded for their safe driving.

VIII. We request that the teens of Spring Valley High School are given the right to have food and drink in class. Every humans body works differently and cycles at different times. Therefore, everyone gets hungry at different times. Teens should not be forced to live in conformity and eat during the designated time for lunch. Some teens simply get hungry at different times. By allowing us to have snacks in class we can eat when we get hungry. This will also keep us better focused on school. In order to receive this right we accept the responsibility of cleaning up the teacher’s room from any food or drink spills for the last minute of any class we choose to eat in. If the teacher does not feel that the classroom is picked up they can then choose to take up to one minute of the teens passing period to finish cleaning.

IX. We request that the teens of Spring Valley High School are allowed to bring small bags to class. Some classes require more supplies than others and sometimes a student needs to bring homework to work on that is from multiple classes, making it hard to carry. A small bag would allow teens to have the freedom of bringing more things to class. This will helping them better accomplish tasks and use time wisely. We realize that bringing bags to class could create a problem of carrying things inappropriate for school. Therefore, we accept the responsibility to be subject to random bag checks at any time during the day. If inappropriate things are found in the bag, the owner of the bag will get the privilege revoked and serve a detention.

X. We request the right to have two days to finish and turn in any assignment. Especially in the life of a teen, some nights are busy compared to others. By having all homework due in two days instead of one it gives teens the options to manage their time and save certain things for the next day when they have more time. We accept that we will still have the same amount of work with an assignment assigned everyday we will just more time to finish and turn it in.

These rights are presented on behalf of the entire population of teenagers in America. Please look them over and begin to give us the rights we deserve. All the rights that we are asking for will increase freedom for teens while increasing responsibility. These rights will make us more independent and ready to take responsibility for ourselves. By freeing teens from restriction, our ability to participate in the common good work of the people of the United States of America will increase. This means that by giving teens rights we will not only positively affect ourselves but every citizen. By giving teens lives a new voice, we will bridge that gap between generations. We will better respect all people because we no longer will feel pushed about, our lives like a ship tossed back and forth by waves it can not control. We will have a voice. We will be equal. We will be free.