

Submitter: Barbara Adams  
On Behalf Of:  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB548

Testimony  
Barbara Adams  
Age 63  
State of Georgia

I married at the age of 16. I was not pregnant at the time in case you may think that was the reason. After many years of suffering, grieving and processing through my past, I am just now learning how to be an adult in the world and be accountable and responsible for myself first. To get to know myself, love myself truly and unconditionally as a person AND as an individual feminine.

I became a wife and mother before I became a fully recognized person in my own eyes which of course, is a vital and necessary part of "growing up". So many rights of passage I missed in my life, up until now when I can actually see myself and my part in my own life. Please be reminded that the commitments of marriage is not something some 16 year olds can comprehend, much less live out in healthy ways to develop into an adult. Becoming a wife or husband should be reserved for those who can decide and choose clearly and fully, based on clear facts and what is absolutely best for them as an individual.. not on "the feelings" of being intertwined in a "couple". Maturity is essential! Often times some of us became parents before we even knew how to finish raising ourselves to a responsible level to participate in our own lives and the lives of our loved ones and family members. Hence, we then only survived the best we could. This all can (and in my case did) create dysfunction and failure to thrive. Please ensure a more reasonable age for legal marriage to ensure maturity and emotional development is intact. Personally I would suggest 30's and above minimum. Thank you for reading this and considering my testimony.

Barbara Adams  
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