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\*Children\* are not allowed to drive until they are 16. They are not allowed to vote until they are 18. They are not allowed in the military until they are 18. They are not allowed to smoke until they are 18. They are not allowed to drink alcohol until they are 21. Why? Because they are not mentally mature enough to make decisions that could negatively affect their health and physical growth. The decision making area of the brain, ie risk analysis, is not fully developed until our mid- to late twenties. Which is why teenagers participate in riskier behaviors, and do things they wouldn't consider once they are in their thirties and beyond.

How can a \*child\* determine that they need life altering, irreversible surgery? How can a \*child\* cross state lines for initial surgery, hormone blockers and other medicine and follow up care and appointments, when their home state rightly prevents them from having these procedures? Maine should not be a destination for the genital mutilation of children. Let them wait until they grow up and mature naturally and can make that decision as an adult - age 21.