

In that the slogan "old  
enough to



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

In 1942, during World War II, under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress passed lowering the draft age to eighteen in order to increase the number of men eligible to fight in war. However, at the time of war, as of the 1787 when the American Constitution was ratified, voting requirements were left to the individual states to determine the voting age which still remained twenty-one. It was due to President Roosevelt's actions that the slogan "old enough to fight, old enough to vote," was first heard and later adopted by young college activists during the Vietnam War in attempt to extend the voting age. The phrase came about due to the fact that the men, and families of the men being drafted, felt as though it was unconstitutional and unjust to be forced, by law, to abide to a draft proposed by a government that they did not even have to luxuriate to vote on whether or not they support or not. It was this slogan and movement that, in 1942, prompted one of eleven of Congressmen Jennings Randolph (D- WV) proposal to an amendment that would allow for those fighting in World War II between the age of eighteen and twenty-one the right to vote.

His purposes for the proposal was that he believed that the young men fighting in World War II, as well as all other young citizens across the country, "possess a great conscience, are perplexed by the injustices in the world and are anxious to rectify those ills" (Randolph). President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President Lyndon B. Johnson supported the cause and the beliefs of Congressmen Jennings were picked up amongst citizens across the country and the battle to extend the voting age began.