



Child Labor Coalition

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National Coordinator, Global March Against Child Labor

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The Honorable Jon Erpenbach
Wisconsin Senate
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Erpenbach:

The Child Labor Coalition (CLC) is comprised of a group of more than 30 organizations, which works to protect youth from employment that endangers and exploits them. Traveling youth crews is one such occupation. Therefore, we are pleased to support the Malinda's Traveling Sales Crew Regulation Act.

Traveling Sales Crews consistently ranks as one of the nation's Five Worst Teen Jobs on an annual list compiled by CLC member organization, National Consumers League. It makes the list because traveling sales crew employment is dangerous work due to increased risk of motor vehicle injury (as either pedestrian or passenger) and vulnerability to assaults and abductions by customers and strangers. Often, the vehicles used for transportation of the workers have not been inspected for road-worthiness, and accident reports often include drivers who are not insured or licensed. Other hazards include crew leaders and co-workers with criminal convictions and behavior. Traveling sales jobs offer attractive features for someone a step ahead of the law – mobility, a hotel room, a product to sell (which serves as an excuse for entry into homes), a way out of town, and access to new territory.

The CLC is particularly pleased with this bill's prohibition on hiring minors for traveling sales crew jobs. This in no way restricts minors from being salespeople for legitimate companies, but will protect them from exploitative and often fraudulent companies. We also support the stringent requirements for employers outlined in the bill and the prohibition of considering sales crew employees as independent contractors.

Thank you for taking the lead on this issue -- one of the most serious in child labor for federal and state labor enforcement agencies and advocates. We urge the Wisconsin legislature to pass this important safeguard for Wisconsin's working youth and young adults.

Sincerely,

Darlene S. Adkins
Coordinator

CLC Advocacy Members: A Minor Consideration; American Ethical Union; AFL-CIO; American Federation of School Administrators; American Federation of Teachers; Americans for Democratic Action; Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs; Calvert Group Ltd.; Church Women United; Forgotten Children; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Human Rights for Workers; International Center on Child Labor and Education; International Initiative to End Child Labor; Kids Campaign Against Child Labor; Labor Heritage Foundation; National Association of Social Workers; National Consumers League; National Education Association; New Ways to Work; RUGMARK Foundation USA; The Crafts Center at CHF International; The Ramsay Merriam Fund; UNITE!; United Food and Commercial Workers International Union; United Methodist Church, Women's Division; Walden Asset Management; Youth Advocate Program International