

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: We are working diligently to prepare our youth for the challenging academic and technical requirements of the 21st Century. Meanwhile, employers are crying out for qualified employees. Currently, we have students in high schools throughout the nation learning the many challenging skills related to the construction industry. The implications of these proposed changes to the child labor laws would eliminate our ability to offer career and technical (CTE) education in the construction related areas since you would no longer allow them to work with many of the tools or perform many of the tasks required in the construction of a house, etc. Do you realize just how detrimental it would be for thousands of our nation's high school students if these programs were no longer available to them?

- 1). Hands-on CTE is the means for many students to actually grasp the underlying math and science concepts, etc. This results in improved academic achievement rates on the high-stakes tests needed to graduate.
- 2). Participation in these engaging classes is often the primary reason our students are willing to come to school at all, and also willing to perform in their academic classes in order to be allowed to participate in CTE.
- 3). You will see a decrease in student attendance in high school and a decrease in the graduation rates.
- 4). First and foremost in Construction related CTE classes (and in all CTE) students are taught about safety in all aspects, the proper and safe use of equipment and tools, and to always use safety gear. Elimination of these programs would put more individuals out into "on-the-job" learning without important related classroom instruction that emphasizes safety from early on.
- 5). Throughout the nation our high schools are tying all CTE instruction to industry certification. In Construction Technology and Carpentry programs, students are receiving OSHA certification as part of the prerequisite instruction. In this way, we assure that all of our students have the utmost in safety instruction that they will carry with them throughout their careers.
- 6). Without the ability to partner with the construction industry and its employers, we will be forced to close these programs.
- 7). You will see fewer youth prepared or willing to enter the construction industry.

Where will our workforce come from?