



Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School

Bethlehem Campus: 3300 Chester Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020-2895 • 610-866-8013 • Fax: 610-866-6124
Northampton Campus: 1417 Laubach Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067-1653 • 610-262-0416 • Fax: 610-262-6491

www.bavts.org

May 20, 2008

The Honorable David J. Steil
The Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Main Capitol Building, Room 49 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2031

Re: House Bill 2369, P.N. 3435-Child Labor

Representative Steil:

There are inconsistencies between Federal and State law concerning placement of student learners in career and technical occupations and the time allowed to work. The Pennsylvania Cooperative Education Association (PCEA) believes that students that have the proper training and supervision should be allowed to be placed into the seventeen (17) Hazardous occupations safely.

Besides the training and supervision these student learners possess, we also include employer agreements which limit liability for our program. These precautions protect the student, the employer and the program while we train a much needed workforce in these seventeen (17) hazardous occupations.

The PCEA respectfully requests that the House Bill mentioned above includes language that 1. exempts student learners, including summer months, that are under the supervision of a Certificated Cooperative Education Instructor and have participated in the appropriate Career and Technical program, 2. maintains an eight (8) hour workday and forty-four (44) hour workweek.

Including this language would clean up the conflicts between federal and state law. It would make it easier for our employers to understand and therefore encourage more participation in

“Providing opportunities to build careers.”



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our successful program. I work with employers such as Bosch-Rexroth, Lehigh Heavy Forge Corp, B. Braun Medical, and West Side Hammer Electric. Losing these companies from our

program would make less qualified employees available for them and could lead to Pennsylvania losing these companies.

I am available to discuss this request or answer any concerns. I am the School-to-Career Coordinator from Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School and a SkillsUSA advisor. If you make this part of the referenced bill, it will make it easier to place trained students with employers in our program, which has been very successful at training our future workforce.

Sincerely,

Connie Muschko
School-to-Career Coordinator
Eastern Region Vice-President Pennsylvania Cooperative Education Association

"Providing opportunities to build careers."
