

# CHILD LABOR ON JOB SITES

WSLC, AFL-CIO  
April Sims, President  
Cherika Carter, Secretary Treasurer

**Nationwide, the number of minors in the workplace is on the rise, and in Washington State we are seeing an interest in expanding opportunities for children in the workplace. However, not every employer prioritizes the safety of our children.**

The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) can issue a minor work permit for an employer to oversee children on a jobsite, as well as issue variances so that minors can perform work that is normally prohibited for underage workers.



## THE PROBLEM

While most employers are good actors, some employers have committed egregious violations that have endangered the health and safety of children pursuing work experience.

## THE SOLUTION

Set statutory sideboards for when L&I can issue, deny, or revoke a minor work permit based on the employer's record of health and safety violations with the state to ensure all workers are safe on the job.

**The legislature should act to pass legislation to protect our children when they are in the workplace.**

- **The bill will require that minor worker law/rule violations and injuries of minors on jobsites are reported by L&I to the Legislature on a regular basis,** to increase oversight.
- **Additionally, the bill seeks to increase fines for bad actors,** further encouraging employers to prioritize child safety and adherence to existing law.
- **This bill will increase accountability for employers who are issued minor work permits, improve compliance with our state labor laws, and ensure a safer work environment for minor workers.**



Learn more at [wslc.org](http://wslc.org)

Questions? Contact WSLC Legislative Director John Traynor at [jtraynor@wslc.org](mailto:jtraynor@wslc.org)



***Our Voice - Our Power - Our Movement***

14-JAN-25