



Maine Women's Lobby

THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Contact: Charlotte Warren, 207.622.0851 ext. 24 (office), or 207.441.9116 (cell)

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee Votes to Put Learning First, Working Second

*Expresses bipartisan opposition regarding removing minimum wage and hour protections
for working teens*

*Statement of Sarah Standiford, Executive Director
Augusta, Maine*

“Today in Augusta, members of the Legislature’s Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development Committee voted ought not to pass on a bill that would have rolled back decades of bipartisan support for child labor protections. The Maine Women’s Lobby lauds their decision – for Maine teens – and Maine’s economy.

“Although they previously voted ‘ought to pass’ on another proposal to loosen protections for Maine’s teen workers, L.D. 516, which would permit employers to schedule teen workers up to 24 hours during the school week, up to six hours on a school day and keep them working until 11 o’clock on a school night, committee members today voted to put education first.

“L.D. 1346, introduced by Representative David C. Burns (R – Whiting), would have abolished minimum wage protections for high school students 20 and under – limiting their income to just \$5.25 in the first six months. And it eliminates any cap on the number of hours a 16 year old could work on a school day. Maine Lawmakers should reject this and all efforts to weaken child labor protections ”

The Maine Women’s Lobby is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, membership organization working since 1978 to increase opportunities for women and girls through advocacy and legislative action. www.mainewomen.org.

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