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LB 484

SENATOR FOLEY: That would be my understanding, that a 12-year-old would already be in violation of the law. I think that's correct.

SENATOR SMITH: And was there any action taken against this nonprofit organization for exploiting a 12-year-old?

SENATOR FOLEY: That I don't know, Senator. Good question, though.

SENATOR SMITH: But you maintain that it would only apply to 14- and 15-year-olds?

SENATOR FOLEY: Because a 14- and 15-year-old child can work, legally, with a permit, but I don't believe--and maybe there's somebody on the floor who can correct me on this--I don't believe a 12-year-old can get a work permit. I think the detasseling is the one area where we've limited...where we have some limited opportunities for work for underage children. But for a regular student work permit, you have to be 14 or 15.

SENATOR SMITH: Are you aware of any action taken against any situations like this? I mean, to me, if there's already an egregious action with a 12-year-old, there should be some sort of history as to eliminating that. I mean, I have concerns about 14- and 15-year-olds as well, but I mean, if the problem is truly younger than that, I question whether the state needs to be the parents of just 14- and 15-year-olds, instead of 12-year-olds.

SENATOR FOLEY: I understand your concern, Senator. I think the 12-year-old situation is already covered in law, but I don't...and I don't why the employer in that case was not...somebody didn't go after that employer in that instance. I can't speak to that. And maybe they did; I just am not aware of it.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, thank you, Senator Foley. I have to say that I'm rather torn on this. I think it's a rush to regulation that is a bit premature. I'm just very torn on this, but again,