

From: McCarter, Tina - ILAB
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:50 AM
To: Smith, Pauline K - WHD
Cc: Nagel, Claudia - ILAB
Subject: RE: Laws for Child Labor
Dear Pauline:

Many thanks for your comment. We certainly appreciate your point that we have issues to address here in the United States as well. In our annual report on trade beneficiary country efforts to address child labor, "DOL's Annual Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor," there is information about efforts and challenges facing the United States in our Introduction. The report may be found at:
<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/PDF/2008OCFTreport.pdf>

Many thanks for your submission.

Best,
Tina

Tina McCarter
International Relations Officer
Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking
U.S. Department of Labor
Phone: 202-693-4846
Fax: 202-693-4830
Email: mccarter.tina@dol.gov

From: Smith, Pauline K - WHD
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2010 9:29 AM
To: McCarter, Tina - ILAB
Subject: Laws for Child Labor

Good Morning:

I could not help but view the statement in the newsletter of February 25th 2010 where the article mentioned that of forced or indentured child labor,

I have seen under the FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) where there are no limits to how many hours a person can work nor the days once you attain the age of 19, There should be such a thing as "Adult endangered labor also" I was even much more amazed and stunned when I telephoned one of our State offices, to discover that Maryland is considered an "At-will State" (where did people come up with these ideas I'll never know) I was informed via telephone that Maryland is an At-will state, where you work solely at the discretion of the employer, when it listed breaks or meal periods Maryland does not even have anything listed (so my interpretation of that was that Your employer can ask an employee to come to work any time (to work how ever long the Employer desires, and you are not even required to have a break), there is something definitely wrong with that.

From the Newsletter of Feb. 25th 2010

“International Scene

Department Seeks Feedback on Child Labor

The Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) recently announced that it is publishing two related requests for information (RFIs) from the public in advance of developing reports to Congress and the president. One seeks information on goods produced in foreign countries by child labor, forced labor and/or forced or indentured child labor. The other focuses on certain countries' efforts to implement their international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor”

I could see an Employer requesting that from an employee, and if they filed a lawsuit against the employer, (you stand to undergo retaliation, where the employer can request several things from the employee to make it so you could not even stand to report for work and then fire you) I really think that is so unfortunate – someone really needs to look that law over.

It's so strange how we speak of international labor laws, and what goes on over seas across the waters, and want the general public to feel empathy for these persons and yet not look into situations that happen in our own country.

Thank you for taking the time to review this comment.