

## House Resolution 1561

By: Representatives Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, McCall of the 30<sup>th</sup>, Roberts of the 154<sup>th</sup>, Anderson of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Nimmer of the 178<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Labor to recall proposed policies; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, agriculture is the backbone of Georgia's economy, generating over \$68 billion  
4 and employing one in seven Georgians; and

5 WHEREAS, passing on the family farm to the next generation is vital to the continued  
6 survival of the agriculture industry; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor seeks to impose harsh, extreme, and  
8 uncalled for regulations attempting to ban students from working on farms; and

9 WHEREAS, the proposed rules could prohibit children under 16 from being paid to operate  
10 most power-driven equipment, including tractors and combines; and

11 WHEREAS, the proposed rules will bar those under 18 from working at grain elevators,  
12 silos, feedlots, and livestock auctions and from transporting raw farm materials; and

13 WHEREAS, the proposed rules only allow for the direct children of the single owner of the  
14 farm to work, it would ban grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and family friends, and  
15 it would ban children from working on family farms owned by more than one family member  
16 or incorporated agribusiness; and

17 WHEREAS, it is understood that not all farm labor jobs are suitable for children, and it  
18 cannot be ignored that age appropriate jobs can be a positive experience that can leave  
19 memories that last a lifetime; and

20 WHEREAS, over 200,000 Georgia students participate in 4-H and FFA each year, and the  
21 opportunities to learn safe practices in agriculture as well as simply complete program  
22 requirements would be limited, if not eliminated, if these rules move forward; and

23 WHEREAS, under both Republican and Democratic control, Congress never held a hearing  
24 on legislation amending the Fair Labor Standards Act to ban children under the age of 18  
25 from working on a farm; and

26 WHEREAS, it must be noted that legislation has been introduced every year since 2005, and  
27 in the 109th and 110th, the current United States Labor Secretary, Hilda Solis, cosponsored  
28 the legislation; and

29 WHEREAS, it can be deduced that these regulations defy the will and intent of Congress,  
30 and it is wrong and unfair that the United States Department of Labor states that the  
31 "youngsters working on farms are robbed of their childhood"; and

32 WHEREAS, Secretary Solis has circumvented the will of Congress, and the United States  
33 Department of Labor is reevaluating the parent exemption and is encouraged to do so  
34 completely throughout this section of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body condemn the proposed rules, urge the United States Department  
37 of Labor to recall them, and call on Agriculture Secretary Vilsack to speak up for the farm  
38 families of America and reject the proposed discrimination practices set forth by the Labor  
39 Department's proposed policies.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Congress, Secretary Solis,  
42 and Secretary Vilsack.