

Gov. Evers Vetoes Bill to Roll Back Child Labor Protections

Written by GOV Press Wisconsin
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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/teens-dating-s5.png>



Republican bill would have removed important parental notifications and undermined child labor law enforcement.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today delivered remarks at the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists 2024 Spring Conference in Madison and vetoed Senate Bill 436, which would have eliminated the requirement that employers obtain a work permit in order to employ 14- or 15-year-olds. The governor's veto comes amid a rise in teenagers working in hazardous or illegal jobs for their age in recent years. According to the [U.S. Department of Labor](#), from 2021 to 2023, the number of minors employed in violation of child labor laws increased by 105 percent.

Excerpts from Gov. Evers' remarks for the Wisconsin State Council of Machinists 2024 Spring Conference as prepared for delivery are below.

"I don't have to tell the folks in this room that Wisconsin faces generational challenges retaining and recruiting talented workers. In April last year, our state unemployment rate hit a historic-low of 2.4 percent. Last year, Wisconsin had the all-time lowest number of unemployed workers ever in modern history. And our state's labor force participation rate also consistently remained above the national average throughout the year.

"So, it's also time to retire the well-worn political talking point that Wisconsinites aren't working or working hard—Wisconsinites work hard, and they are working. It's why I was proud to declare 2024 the Year of the Worker—we need real, meaningful, and long-term solutions to address our state's workforce challenges.

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[Veto Message for Senate Bill 436](#) ~~https://www.wisconsin.gov/gov/evers/veto-messages/sb436/~~