

Human Rights Watch Student Task Force
11500 W. Olympic Blvd, #441
Los Angeles, CA 90064

December 11, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman,

As students in the Los Angeles area, we are writing to you to urge your support for the Children’s Act for Responsible Employment (CARE), HR 3564. This important legislation would make sure that children who work in US agriculture receive the same child labor protections as children working in other jobs.

We are concerned that under current US child labor laws, children as young as twelve years old can work long hours in the fields, often under dangerous and grueling conditions. They pick lettuce and cucumbers, weed cotton fields, and “pitch” heavy watermelons for hours on end. Twelve hour work days are common. Because of their long hours, many child farmworkers drop out of school and never graduate.

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Child farmworkers suffer injuries from working with sharp knives and heavy equipment and are often exposed to dangerous pesticides. Between 1992 and 2000, children working in agriculture accounted for 42 percent of all work-related deaths of minors.

We believe that children who work on farms deserve the same rights and protections as all other children. The CARE Act would ensure that children working in agriculture do not work at younger ages, for longer hours, or under more hazardous conditions than other working children.

We hope that you will co-sponsor the CARE Act (HR 3564) and support its quick adoption. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name

Address
