

## Senate Resolution 112 - Introduced

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY BARTZ, FEENSTRA, HAHN, KETTERING, ERNST, ANDERSON,  
ZAUN, BEHN, KAPUCIAN, SEYMOUR, DIX, MCKINLEY,  
BACON, CHELGREN, WHITVER, GREINER, SORENSON,  
BERTRAND, JOHNSON, WARD, SMITH, BOETTGER, SENG,  
HANCOCK, and RIELLY

1 A Resolution supporting the tradition of youth  
2 involvement in family farming and opposing federal  
3 labor regulations to the contrary.  
4 WHEREAS, on September 2, 2011, the United States  
5 Department of Labor published new proposed regulations  
6 which would severely restrict the ability of youth to  
7 engage in agricultural work; and  
8 WHEREAS, working on a farm has long been a way of  
9 life for thousands of youth across Iowa; and  
10 WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would adversely  
11 impact the long-standing tradition in Iowa of youth  
12 working on farms to gain valuable skills and lessons in  
13 hard work, character, and leadership; and  
14 WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would be  
15 detrimental to the opportunity for Iowa youth to find  
16 educational, gainful, and hands-on work experience; and  
17 WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would hinder the  
18 ability of Iowa youth to participate in 4-H clubs,  
19 Future Farmers of America (FFA), the Iowa State Fair,  
20 county fairs, and other activities which are crucial to  
21 instilling an appreciation for agriculture and a strong  
22 work ethic; and  
23 WHEREAS, all farms depend on the contributions of  
24 youth for their successful operation; and

1 WHEREAS, the proposed regulations would limit  
2 opportunities to recruit young farmers to agriculture  
3 at a time when the average age of farmers continues to  
4 rise; and

5 WHEREAS, a strong, enduring agricultural sector  
6 is vital to this country's long-term economic  
7 security; and

8 WHEREAS, in times of economic hardship, labor  
9 regulations should be designed to promote job  
10 growth and economic opportunity, while the proposed  
11 regulations would only make it more difficult for Iowa  
12 youth to find jobs; and

13 WHEREAS, agricultural work has only grown safer for  
14 youth over time without imposition of further federal  
15 regulation; and

16 WHEREAS, the proposed regulations demonstrate  
17 a profound lack of understanding of agricultural  
18 traditions and practices in this country; and

19 WHEREAS, the Department of Labor has received  
20 significant, compelling, detailed public comment from a  
21 wide variety of knowledgeable persons and organizations  
22 opposing the proposed regulations; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate urges  
24 the United States Department of Labor to withdraw the  
25 proposed regulations; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate urges  
27 President Barack Obama to rescind the proposed  
28 regulations if they should become effective; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate urges  
30 Congress to overturn the proposed regulations if they

1 should become effective; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of  
3 the Senate is directed to forward a copy of this  
4 resolution to President Barack Obama; United States  
5 Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis; United States  
6 Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; Representative  
7 John Boehner, Speaker of the United States House of  
8 Representatives; Senator Harry Reid, Senate Majority  
9 Leader; Representative Eric Cantor, House Majority  
10 Leader; Senator Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority  
11 Leader; Representative Nancy Pelosi, House Minority  
12 Leader; and Iowa's congressional delegation.