Testimony in Support of Repealing the Subminimum Wage for Minors and Students: HB5181
House Committee on Labor
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The Economic Progress Institute supports Representative Sanchez’s HB5181 which, if enacted, would end exceptions made for minors and students, enabling employers to pay them below the state’s regular minimum wage. We believe there are two strong reasons for eliminating these exceptions:

- These employees should be paid the same as other minimum wage employees for the same work.
- Despite the stereotype of young workers working primarily for pocket change, many such workers actually contribute towards the income of their households. Especially in cases where a parent is unemployed, for whatever reasons, income from younger workers can prove critical to making ends meet. Just because some younger workers might be working for some extra cash, we should not punish those younger workers helping their families survive.

Therefore, we urge you to vote in favor of HB5181 and send it to the House floor.