

## Let's keep our children safe at work

I am compelled to respond to the April 14th Your Turn column titled, "Why your state May block your teenager from getting a job." Last summer my son was 14, finally old enough to get his first summer job, and he was excited to do so. He found a job and that's when he and I found out about the work form he had to fill out.

No big deal. He got the form from school, his employer filled out the employer part, then we got his pediatrician to sign it, then he and I signed it, then back it went to his school. It was such a simple process. Much ado about nothing except it really is something very important.

I for one welcomed the thoroughness in the process. I want to know where my child is working and I think having his pediatrician take a look ensures he has no medical issues that would prevent him from accomplishing the duties required of his job. I also think it is wise to have the school play a role since most kids, to which the form applies (ages 14-17), are still in school.

Massachusetts isn't holding any teen back from getting a summer job. They are doing just the opposite; ensuring they are working legally in a safe environment. I applaud that.