



DALE KOOYENGA
STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

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January 22, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Trade
FR: Senator Dale Kooyenga
RE: support for Senate Bill 629 – minor golf caddies

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 629, a bill to assist Wisconsin youth golf caddies with access to the Western Golf Association Evans Scholars Foundation scholarship program.

The Evans Scholars Foundation awards full college tuition and housing scholarships to high-achieving golf caddies who have limited financial means. Evans Scholars recipients are chosen based on academic excellence, outstanding character, financial need, and a proven caddie record.

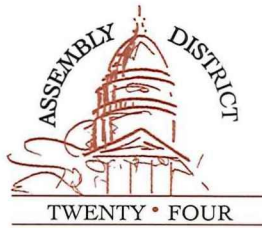
In order to qualify for this scholarship, students typically begin caddying in early high school, while some may start as early as 12 or 13 years old. Although current law prohibits a minor under 14 years of age from being employed or permitted to work in any gainful occupation, various exceptions are provided such as allowing 12 and 13 year olds to be employed as caddies on golf courses so long as they use caddy carts while providing their services.

Wisconsin law also requires that a minor caddy must be deemed an employee of the golf club or entity operating the course. This mandatory status forces the club or course to adhere to the corresponding overtime and wage requirements. This causes many clubs and courses to reduce the number of caddies they employ. Unfortunately, students in pursuit of the Evans Scholars Foundation scholarship are the ones who pay the price as they are left with fewer opportunities.

SB 629 removes the requirement that minor caddies must be deemed employees of the golf club. Additionally, the bill allows 12 and 13 year olds to conduct their caddying without state law mandating cart services.

The Evans Scholars Program has reduced barriers for thousands of young men and women with limited access to a college education and by reforming these mandatory requirements, Wisconsin can increase scholarship opportunities for students of limited financial means and drive more students into success.

Thank you again for hearing SB 629 and I respectfully ask for your support.



DAN KNODL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 24TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Senate Bill 629

Public Testimony

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Trade

January 22, 2020

Thank you, Chairman Feyen and members of the committee for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 629.

Like many kids, I had a summer job growing up. For some it was a paper-route, mowing lawns, a life-guard, or something else. For me it was caddying at the golf course.

That's why I introduced this legislation with Senators Kooyenga and Erpenbach, and Representative Haywood. It's important for caddy programs around Wisconsin to remain strong and also include youth caddies. If opportunities for youth caddies aren't available at golf courses, clubs, and resorts these boys and girls will miss out on one of the best summer jobs available. They'll also miss out on the life-changing opportunity to earn an Evans Scholarship, which the committee will hear more about later.

SB 629 seeks to keep caddy jobs available for youth. As drafted, the legislation updates Wisconsin laws relating to youth caddies and brings them in-line with federal guidelines and current practices here and in other states. The bill would allow youth caddies to be either employees of a hosting golf course or work as an independent contractor. It also allows youth caddies to use a pull cart or carry the golf bag. Making these changes provides options and flexibility for caddy programs to remain strong and continue providing opportunities to young people across the state.