



## Age Restriction of U.S. Semi Truck Drivers Lowered to 18 Years Old



A new program will allow 18-year-olds to drive 18 wheelers across state lines. This sounds terrifying, and it is, considering that fatal truck crashes have continued to steadily increase over the last decade. Additionally, a University of Michigan study found a 500% increase in injury crashes for truck drivers under the age of 21 compared to truck drivers overall.

The trucking industry has been asking Congress to lower the legal driving age for interstate trucking from 21 to 18 for many years. With the increasing shortage of truck drivers and the impact to transferring goods, the lawmakers caved to the pressure and created an apprenticeship program as part of the bipartisan infrastructure bill last year. "The Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot" requires 400 hours of additional training, and requires trucks to be equipped with advanced safety features. However, there are

numerous arguments against this program, and all of them make valid points. Here are some of the arguments: 1) The lack of truck drivers is primarily caused by the low pay and difficult work conditions. Adding young drivers to this workforce is a way to pay less for truck drivers, but at what cost to other drivers on the road? 2) Studies have consistently shown that young drivers are much more likely to be involved in a crash, this is true of young commercial drivers as well. 3) Allowing these young drivers to cross state lines often allows them to go longer and further distances than when they were only allowed to drive within their state. Longer routes and sleeping overnight on their routes, sets up these young drivers for more opportunities for fatigue. A fatigued teen driving a semi truck is a recipe for a disaster. There are many more arguments against this program, and the only argument for this program continues to be that more truck drivers are needed. However with the multitude of data already available that shows that teen drivers are involved in far more accidents than older drivers, this program comes with high risks.

If this article sounds biased, it is because we are biased. We know the destruction that a fatigued, immature, and/or distracted driver can cause, and adding an additional 35,000- 80,000 pounds to a vehicle (the weight of a semi truck), makes the possibility for a catastrophic event even more likely. According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 88% of truck related crashes are due to driver error. Use your voice to tell FMCSA “NO to “The Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot”! [Click here to tell FMCSA "No"](#).

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## Corporate Sponsorship with CASA North Idaho



One of our “Core Values” at the Firm, is to give back to the communities in which we live and work. This last month we became a corporate sponsor for CASA North Idaho. CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are appointed by judges to advocate for children’s best interests in cases of abuse, neglect, or

assigned to any child in the foster system. The mission of CASA is for every child who has experienced abuse or neglect to be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive. We are thankful to support an organization that is making such a valuable contribution in our communities. To learn more about CASA North Idaho click the link below.

## CASA North Idaho

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## A Note From Our CEO

I hope you had a great January, and start to 2022. Sargent Law Firm had a busy month. We moved into our new Murrieta office space, and moved to a larger office space for our Coeur d'Alene, Idaho office. I created some big firm goals for 2022. To reach these goals it will require us to hire more staff at all office locations, and continue our focus on providing the highest level of legal representation for our clients to receive top financial compensation. Achieving these firm goals will allow us to hit our "Give back" goal to local non profit organizations. Our "Give back" goal aligns with our mission statement to make a positive impact in the communities in which we live and work. We continue to be grateful to our clients for trusting us with their injury case, and allowing us to represent them. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to our team if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Sargent, Esq.


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