

IRT Docket #FMCSA-2000-8410 (Younger Commercial Driver Training Program) I am 40 years old and not presently a commercial driver, I cannot believe that this would be allowed. I do not believe that this petition is a result of the lack of drivers. As the saying goes, quality begets quality and you pay for what you get. If trucking companies as a whole would pay and support their drivers more in line with the fair labor standards act and do their part in making this a more "respectible" career, the lack of driver issue/high driver turnover would be far less "critical". I have put off becoming a commercial driver for a number of years partially because of these issues and I know I am not alone. The industry needs to take a closer look at themselves, cheap pay and the assumption that there will always be another sucker to fill the seat may be more costly than upfront pay and respect.

Also, take a look at the insurance industry for some input on the risk of younger drivers. Do they consider younger drivers a risk? Now add 76,000 lbs to the equation! If the need to move freight is so critical, why was the trucking industry screaming just recently on the thought of Mexican trucks having complete access to our highways? (referring to NAFTA and USA not allowing Mexican trucks access) Safety or money?

Thank you for taking the time to view my opinion.  
Jerry Harris