

SB 470 Testimony

I'm writing to you in regard to school breaks. I have to tell you that it is very hard on classified employees during school breaks. I work 7.5 hours a day as a clerical education assistant and I can barely make ends meet during the school year let alone the school breaks.

I start worrying about what I'm going to do in the summer at the first of the year, and it causes so much stress for me and my family. I don't know how many garage sales that we've had to have in the summer just to scrape by. By the time September comes around, we are in a huge hole that we need to climb out of.

Having three school aged children in August is rough, school supplies and fees are impossible to pay. It's so embarrassing going from school to school during registration and telling them I can't pay the fees, when I work for the same district. We are lucky to hit garage sales and second-hand stores for back to school clothes.

One of my daughters who is an athlete, does ALL the fundraisers and volunteers for anything that will decrease the amount we have to pay for her to play a sport. My other daughter who is in band and going into high school next year may not be able to play, because I don't know if I will be able to come up with her fees. We still qualify for free and reduced lunches and I've worked in the district for 8 years.

I love working in education, however I just don't know how much longer I can hold out. Having unemployment during the summer would help so many families. I know it would change the lives of mine.

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