

Dear Members of the Senate Workforce Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 470, which will be heard in your committee this Wednesday (4/1). Other hourly wage permanent workers in Oregon are eligible for unemployment benefits when their workplace is temporarily closed. Classified school employees are denied this benefit despite being left without work or income during summer and winter breaks.

As a full-time Bilingual Instructional Assistant at Jefferson Elementary School, I only make about \$13,000 a year. My husband and I barely make it through each month. Saving any portion of my income for the summer months is impossible. Temporary summer employment is very difficult to secure, as no one wants to hire a worker for only three months. Not to mention the fact that the expertise and experience of many school employees is, naturally, in education, and there are no job opportunities in this field during summer months.

My husband, a school bus driver, can receive unemployment benefits during the summer and winter months, because he is employed by an independent contractor rather than the school district. Please end this discrimination against school employees and allow us to apply for unemployment when our schools are temporarily closed.

Thank you for your service, and please vote YES this Wednesday on SB 470.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Boyd  
Bilingual Instructional Assistant & ELL Program Coordinator  
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