

March 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: OSEA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL- SB 470

I am writing in regard to SB 470, the Unemployment Insurance Bill. As a classified employee, a secretary, at Baker School District 5J for the past seventeen years I have struggled throughout the summer months to find one or two part time jobs to subsidize my income in the summer months because we are ineligible for unemployment compensation.

As a single mother, of a now college student, this has added a tremendous stress level in my off time, due to seasonal employment for nine or ten months out of the year. Employers hesitate to hire someone for only a couple months, with understandable concern for the cost of training me for temporary employment, or training my replacement in the fall when I return to my job at the high school. In addition, I find myself competing for positions with younger people who return home from college or are my current high school students for summer employment on their off time from school.

We are given the option for ten paychecks or twelve to attempt an offset of this financial hardship. If we receive ten checks, we are paid for the time and hours worked throughout the school year but have no income in July or August. If we select twelve checks, our pay is stretched over the year and we receive less monthly income. Either way I struggle to make ends meet, deciding which utility may have to wait without a disruption in service if possible, so that I can pay other bills that may take priority.

I make enough on paper that I do not qualify for assistance, but take home far less than that paperwork states. Furthermore, I pay into unemployment insurance but am not eligible to receive the benefits of these funds during my standard recess periods each year. This makes no sense.

I, as much as any other tax payer in Oregon, who is subject to annual recess periods beyond our control should have access to all of the same liberties accessible to other citizens employed on a seasonal basis, including unemployment compensation. Please allow myself and other hard working, already under paid, classified employees in the state of Oregon to benefit from a system that our hard earned dollars contribute to, so that we are equally compensated for our lack of unemployment and undue hardship in the summer months. Thank you for your time and consideration of SB 470.

Respectfully,

Stacie M. Grove

Administrative Assistant
Baker High School