

SB 470 Testimony

I am a classified full time employee, an Instructional Assistant II, with the Winston Dillard School District. I am writing in regards to the unemployment issue.

I am a single mother with two kids. I started working for the school system so that I could be on the same schedule as they were.

Since I am unable to collect unemployment during the breaks, I have had to work other jobs to make up the time that I am not at the school. I average 3 – 4 jobs at any given time.

I have my checks spread out for the 12 months which means I am bringing home just over a \$1000 a month. This does not cover very much so that has left me no choice but to work elsewhere. I had one year where I switched to being paid for the 9 months because I had a job set up for the following summer. In May, 3 weeks before school was to be released, I was told the summer position was no longer available. It was a very financially tight summer that year as I tried to get work until school started again in the fall.

I pay into the unemployment system with every paycheck and have never understood why we are unable to claim it when we have every intention of going back to the school after the breaks are over. We are not asking for special privileges. This should be a benefit for us since we have paid into it.

Sincerely,

Tari Perez
Winston Dillard School District
Instructional Assistant II