

SB 470

March 30, 2015

To whom it may concern;

I am a classified employee, in the Winston-Dillard School District in the south county. I work as a Media Specialist II in the library for 9 hours a day, four days a week. We only work when the students are in attendance. This means that I work only 9 months of each year. We do not get paid for winter break, spring break and some holidays. We only work 165 day of the year, but are unable to get another job that does not interfere with our current job. It is very hard to find another job that will not impede my current job.

We are able to take our checks for the 9 month. I take my checks for 12 months, but this decreases my monthly pay. In fact what is happening, is the district is not paying our full wages during the school year. They keep part of our wages during the year, so they can pay us for the other 3 months in June. We collect 3 paychecks in June, finally collecting our wages we have previously earned. This is the only way I can pay all my bills thru the summer months.

Loggers, Fisherman, Carpenters and even now school bus drivers that are with First Student get to collect unemployment for the summer months. I do not feel that we should be condemned for working with students and helping them learn and grow. We have a hard enough job, making it even harder on us to make a living does not make sense. Just because we work in education, should not mean that we are unable to make a real living and feel like we are not living in poverty. So many others can work in a part time job and receive unemployment compensation. So in fairness, we should be able to receive unemployment compensation.

I do not bring home enough money in a month to even be sure that I can buy groceries, or gas to get to work. As it is now, I do work in education and also live in poverty. Please keep in mind that we all work very hard during the 9 months we are working, just like the loggers, fishermen, carpenters and many others. I hope you consider giving us a chance to do the same.

Sincerely,

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