

3/27/2015



Tiffany Wertz  
Sheridan School District, Classified Employee  
332 SW Cornwall St, Sheridan, OR 97378

Senate Workforce Committee  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

**Dear Senate Workforce Committee Members,**

My name is Tiffany Wertz. I am a classified employee with Sheridan School District in Sheridan, OR. I work as an assistant cook and I love my job. I get to provide our students with nutritious meals throughout their day, which, in our district, might be the only meals they get. I have contact with almost every student in our elementary and middle school, knowing them by name and being able to ask them how their day is going. Seeing them in the lunch line is the highlight of my day.

However, even with working in food service, it is hard to find work in the summer. Not only am I competing with high school or college-age workers, most of the jobs available during the summer are minimum wage jobs. I have three young children, and after day care costs, it would not benefit me to work. It is also hard to find a job when you tell them you can only work for three months.

I currently get my 180 contracted days divided across 12 months. This allows my children to qualify for reduced lunches, and we currently only make \$100 over the food stamps limit. Last year I qualified for food stamps but with my 1% raise in September, it put me over the limit. If I was allowed to collect unemployment during the summer months when I have no feasible employment option, my family would not have to live paycheck to paycheck. It would put my family financially well above the assistance levels. It would give me peace of mind knowing I don't have to live on a shoe-string budget during the summer months.

Please pass SB470 to help families like mine.

Sincerely,  
Tiffany Wertz  
Sheridan School District, Classified Employee