

My name is Alyssa, I am a classified employee for the Amity School District and a union member for 20 years. Just like essential employees I have been employed by the school district during the shutdowns. I have continued to receive a paycheck including for the summer months of 2020. To expect the tax payers to incur more expense because people want additional money is reckless, unfair to those who have lost jobs and not the purpose of unemployment benefits. I am strongly opposed to giving out employee benefits to those who continue receiving a paycheck. Those of us who are classified employees went into this job knowing that the pay is egregious, but we do it anyway because we care about kids. Let us remember that unions are not about protecting what is right and helping their members, but becoming more powerful. To think that the OSEA is saying that we should get benefits while still getting a paycheck is wrong! Please think this over and make a good decision for the tax payers of Oregon to NOT incur more debt just because the unions think they should get extra benefits. I am not sure how passing these bills "would make vast improvements for educational assistants, food service workers, Head Start employees and educational service district (ESD) employees". OSEA states that ". Extreme lags in processing UI claims in 2020 clearly showed how convoluted, inefficient and unfair the current system is". My question is how can you resolve the issues of a badly run employment department to fix the problems of extreme delays getting out checks to those who filed for unemployment. The bigger picture here is to make the employment department efficient, accurate and mindful of their job to provide help to those in need. When you fix the problems at this department then we can think of ways to help those who may need some additional help. Right now people can collect benefits without having to look for a job! How does that help essential business's who are struggling because there are no workers available? I see help wanted signs throughout my county as business's struggle to stay afloat. To allow people benefits without going through the process of looking for employment is unfair, costs the state millions of dollars, and no way of paying for the debt except by raising taxes is no solution! Lets get Oregon back to work! Thank you for listening and I look forward to hearing about a good plan fair to the unemployed but especially to the tax payers.