

Submitter: David Lawler
On Behalf Of: Classified employees of Bend LaPine Schools dist 1
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: SB489

To the Oregon house education committee.

Regarding SB489 which would eliminate obstacles such as the reasonable assurance clause standing in the way of school district classified employees such as Bus drivers from qualifying their district earned income to obtain unemployment benefits during break periods such as summer break.

I am a 20 year employee as a special needs bus driver. For years I have had to endure undue financial hardship during the summer breaks due to my inability to obtain unemployment benefits due to the fact I work for a school district. This has not just been a financial hardship but also a mental hardship creating stress and depression for thousands of dedicated hard working deserving classified employees who wonder how they will pay the bills over the summer months. Having to search for another job for the summer is not a realistic expectation as many of us are senior citizens with tenure at our district jobs who simply can not get a comparable job every summer.

The reasonable assurance clause is an outdated and troublesome rule that simply discriminates against a certain class of citizens.

This discriminatory rule needs to be eliminated as a roadblock for hard-working school district classified employees in obtaining unemployment benefits. It has been proven By previous testimony to be a very minimal financial impact to the districts if this rule were eliminated. Yet would drastically improve the lives of classified employees throughout the state. Such a small action on your part would make such a huge positive impact on the lives of many classified employees. .

I strongly support SB489 and humbly request that you all vote to approve this bill so we classified employees can have the same opportunity for benefits that all other employees are eligible for. Let's have an even playing field here please. It's long over due.

Please help us support our family and children by passing SB 489

Respectfully,
Dave L
Bend Lapine special needs driver.