Petition in support of Oregon House Bill 3390 - Earned Sick Leave bill

For the past four years OSEA has attempted to negotiate sick leave provisions for drivers of First Student, Inc. in multiple collective bargaining agreements. First Student has refused to agree to any sick leave provisions claiming that part-time drivers did not deserve sick leave and that if paid sick leave existed drivers would simply abuse time off.

The facts are that drivers are forced to drive students while they are sick or lose pay and/or suffer disciplinary action. The First Student absentee policy charges points for being absent or missing work, even if a driver is sick. This can and will lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

In addition to being low paid workers, under the national poverty level, most drivers are part-time and don't work enough hours (an average of 20 per week during the prior year) to qualify for either the Family Medical Leave Act or the Oregon Family Leave Act which could subject them to termination for absences caused by illness. Paid sick leave could prevent them from being terminated.

Public school employees who have legislated sick leave are guaranteed one day of sick leave per month of work, report that many students are sent to school sick because their parents do not have sick leave that allows them to stay home to care for sick children. Therefore, adversely impacting the educational environment.

First Student, Inc. is a multinational corporation based in the United Kingdom. It makes profits from U.S. workers by paying low wages, providing no benefits, and not even sick leave. Its profits are sent overseas and they can afford to pay their American workers sick leave.

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We are working people in Oregon who support the Earned Sick Leave bill HB 3390.

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