

Dear Chair Riley and committee members:

I am an Educational Assistant for the 4J School District. I live in Eugene.

I am a low paid worker and it is painfully clear that Oregon's current unemployment laws are unfair and unpredictable for school employees like me.

SB 495 will allow educational assistants to know, before they apply and wait for a determination, which set of rules will be applied to them. This matters, because declaring a worker's job "instructional" means that they can't receive summer unemployment benefits even if they don't end up with a job to return to in the fall.

I strongly believe that this change will reduce work and inconsistency for the Employment Department, and it will create a more fair and predictable situation for educational assistants and their employers. Please pass SB 495.

Thank you for your time,

Nicole Rund Knowles