



Knappa School District No. 4

William Fritz Ph.D.-Superintendent

Submitter: Dr. William Fritz

Agency; Knappa School District

Committee: Senate Committee on Education

Measure: SB489

March 15, 2023

We have been informed that there is potential legislation (SB 489) related to the ability for classified school district employees to collect unemployment during breaks. Classified employees (i.e. bus drivers, and classroom assistants), by the nature of school calendars, necessarily have break periods where students are not present and the services of these employees are not needed. People who apply for these jobs know that there are frequent break periods, and many of them prefer work with breaks so that they can spend time with their own families or children. Classified employees often pick up other jobs during break periods at local businesses (i.e. restaurants during the peak season -summer) when we are not in school.

This bill extends the right to collect unemployment to these break periods. If unemployment is extended to these times, there would be an undue burden to school district budgets when resources are already lean. Additionally, the tracking and paperwork involved in handling these frequent intermittent unemployment claims puts a labor crunch on our school district business offices.

For the reasons above, we are opposed to this bill.

Our mission is to serve students. Additional costs due to legislation only takes away from the services we can provide to students on a daily basis.

If you have any questions about these bills or their impacts on school districts in our region, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bill Fritz, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Knappa School District