

Dear Legislature,

I would like to share my story and how UA equity would help to retain other school staff.

I started working in the school district 12 years ago and since that time, I have had to have a second job to help supplement my income and cover me during non-paid days or breaks. Shortly after I started working in the school district, I became a single parent. Regardless of being a two income household or not, I would still need to work 6 or 7 days and a 60 hour work week, as I still need to cover non paid days so I can continue to pay my bills. As a single mother, the impact this had on my child and I was difficult. We had to share a bedroom as that was what I could afford, and I was working a lot. In the summer, I would have to continue to find another part time job and make less money but my rent and other bills do not change just because I am making less money.

Having the ability to apply for UA insurance, that I do contribute to and am not eligible to use, would make a huge impact and allow me to continue to pay my bills throughout the summer break without the stress of having to find one or more summer jobs to ensure I can continue to keep up on my bills.

UA equity for school employees would make a huge difference in retention rates because people need to go find other jobs in the summer to make ends meet. Knowing they have a job to return to and would still be able to pay their bills during the break, would help keep great school employees in the schools rather than going to find another job to feel monetary security and likely not returning to a school job, as the stress of supplementing is hard.

In conclusion, Unemployment Equity for school employees, who contribute to the fund and are not eligible to apply, **would make a huge impact on retention and monetary security if they would be able to use this benefit.**

Thank you,
Barbara R.