

Submitter: Trisha Williams  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB489

Dear Legislature,

I am writing in support of SB489. As someone who has worked in education for over 10 years, I have witnessed firsthand the impact these rest periods have on families. Classified staff lose thousands of dollars each year creating financial hardships for families. Some districts allow their classified employees to spread their pay over 12 months. I am in a district that does not offer this benefit to their employees. I have faced this hardship over the last 10 years and have had no choice but to get another job to make ends meet. While I am thankful knowing I have medical benefits year round and a job to come back to in August, having the opportunity to claim UI benefits, especially during summer break would take a huge burden off my family.

Districts are struggling more than ever and we desperately need to support our classified staff to ensure strong support in our schools. Classified staff are leaving education due to the lack of pay and the large number of unpaid days in a school year. Without classified staff, OUR schools will struggle even more than they already are. We need this change to help with employee retention and equity within our districts. For this, I strongly support SB489.

Thank you for you time,

Trisha W.