

February 4, 2015

The Honorable Senator Julia Lynn, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce
State Capitol, Room 548 South
Topeka, KS 966612

Proponent Senate Bill 3

Re: Unemployment Benefits for Privately Contracted School Bus Drivers

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Delman Joliff. I work for First Student Transportation, a subsidiary of First Group in Wichita, Kansas. I'm standing before you today asking this committee to support Senate Bill 3, authored by Senator Faust-Goudeau that would end the disqualification of unemployment benefits for School Bus Drivers in the State of Kansas.

Most School Bus Drivers work 30 to 40 hours per week transporting our children to and from school, shuttles, field trips and other activities. School Bus driving work in the summer is very minimal thus those school bus drivers who do have opportunities to perform work in the summer have reduced wages making it difficult to meet financial needs during the summer months. Most of these employees experience a layoff having no income to provide for their families. These school bus drivers employed by private contractors are the ones who need unemployment insurance benefits to help them put food on the table and pay bills until the beginning of the next academic year.

My goal today is to encourage this committee to support Senate Bill 3 so School Bus Drivers could be eligible for unemployment benefits. Transporting our children to and from school and other related activities should carry the same importance as any other job that does not discriminate and disqualify the workers based on their title.

In closing Members of the Committee I'm asking for your support for Senate Bill 3.

Thank you for allowing me to speak before this committee today.

Sincerely,

Delman Joliff
4706 S. Leonine
Wichita, Kansas 67217