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SENATE CHAMBER

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MEMBER: COMMERCE
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RULES AND REGULATIONS

Testimony in Favor of Bill 3

Senate Commerce Committee

February 4, 2015

Good morning, Chair Senator Julia Lynn.

Madam Chair, thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 3.

I support this bill for the following three reasons:

First, this bill would enhance the safety of our school children by retaining more experienced, reliable, good bus drivers who ensure that children are safely transported to and from school each and every day. It requires a special kind of person to operate a large vehicle safely amidst the myriad distractions created by a bus load of school children. We should do all we can to retain such people in this important job.

Second, the fiscal impact of this bill is negligible because these drivers would only be eligible for unemployment benefits for two to three months once a year.

Finally, this bill is also about fairness. Bus drivers deserve to be treated similarly to other workers, like those in the aircraft industry, who are permitted to receive unemployment benefits when shutdowns occur.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I urge you to support this bill.

Senator Faust-Goudeau
29th District