

Good morning, Senators.

First, as I tell our Blue Valley District school board members and I say to you, Senators, thank you for your service. I sometimes don't know why you do what you do but I appreciate you. My name is Scott Kelly, my wife and I have lived in Overland Park for 27 years and we've had 2 kids do kindergarten through high school graduation in the Blue Valley School District, and I've been a part-time school bus driver there for 6 years working for First Student, Petermann, and Durham bus companies.

I am also a small business owner here in Kansas. When I hire and employ someone to fill a contractor role for an office job here in Kansas for just a few short weeks or a long 3 months, when they go off the end of the contract period, they can collect unemployment. As the employer, I pay unemployment tax. So it seems not right that we can't figure out a way to give a contract bus driver unemployment for those few times in the year when the company has no work for them. They deserve it and need it to cover the rent and put food on the table. There's no real reasonable assurance of a job for any of them. The companies don't know how many bus drivers they're going to need until they get the order forms and payments in from their customers, i.e. the parents. As for-profit businesses, they're not going to keep any more drivers than they need. And those they do bring back, they don't pay in those times when there's no work. That's why they need the unemployment like other workers get. Thank you.