

Debbie Bartuccio

From: Mark Boaldin <markboaldin@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 1:11 PM
To: Debbie Bartuccio
Subject: Proponent for SB3 Written Testimony

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this message to strongly support the bill known as SB3-Unemployment benefits for privately contracted school bus drivers.

I have been a school bus drivers for the City of Wichita since August of 2005. During that time, I've always struggled to make ends meet during the summer months when school is not in session. Attempts to file for any financial aid have always been rejected. Whether it is unemployment or food stamps. To sit at my kitchen table with my limited budget during the summer and have to chose between rent, utilities and food is not a decision that anyone should ever have to make.

Many have said "Why not get another job during the summer?" The answer is simple; No one will hire a bus driver during that time off due to their potential return to driving when school starts again in August. It's an untenable situation we all find ourselves in.

The benefits of this bill are many. By allowing drivers to collect unemployment, the bus drivers will not only be able to make financial ends meet with more ease. It will allow the private contractor (First Student) to retain many, if not all, of the bus drivers thereby creating stability within the company and the district at large. Also by having a veteran and knowledgeable driver corps transporting children for the district, the quality of drivers will remain high to transport future generations.

I implore this committee to push this bill through. It will provide us with the assistance we so desperately need.

Best Regards,

Mark E. Boaldin