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SENATE CHAMBER
OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
RANKING MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ETHICS, ELECTIONS &
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JOINT COMMITTEES
MEMBER: RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR STATE AGENCIES
CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE
JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

March 15, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB-38
TESTIMONY OF SENATOR OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU

The Senate Committee on Commerce:
Chair: Senator Julia Lynn

Good Morning Madam Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 38.

SB38 would allow school bus drivers to collect unemployment during the summer months when schools are out of session. We usually think of school bus drivers as seniors trying to supplement their income and of course, they would not be applying for unemployment benefits. However, our school bus drivers vary of all ages and it has become their main source of income. Some of those that find other employment during the summer months don't come back therefore the school districts have to go through the expense of hiring other drivers with less experience. These bus drivers now do more intense training, have to do safety inspections and are in charge of our most precious cargo, our children. The cost of training one bus driver is around \$2,500.

It would be less expensive to let them draw unemployment over the summer months than to have to re-hire and re-train bus drivers. This year in the Wichita area, there were 700 positions for bus drivers and they were 80 drivers short. They had to hire those drivers from out of state so they had the expense of hotel rooms, food and paying them \$20 to \$30 an hour. Drawing unemployment for three months would be far less expensive than having to hire out of state bus drivers and we can retain well-trained school bus drivers for the safety of our children.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support SB-38

Sincerely,

Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau