



February 17, 2020

Honorable
Senate and House
Members
KS. State House,
Topeka, KS 66612

Durham School Services is pleased to voice our support for HB 2315 and urge its prompt passage by the Legislature. The bill would address the unfairness in current law which prevents school bus drivers from applying for unemployment benefits when the schools they serve are not in session.

Given the critical role that a stable, experienced workforce plays in assuring safe student transportation, we view it as both prudent and safety conscious to allow contracted school bus drivers to claim unemployment benefits during the summer months. In particular, we believe bill will advance sound public policy for a number of key reasons:

- **Safety and Stability.** Contracted school bus drivers who are able to claim unemployment benefits will more likely return to work as bus drivers during the school year, helping assure the seamless continuation of a safe, reliable, and well-trained driver workforce. This translates in greater student safety as drivers play a critical role in assuring that students arrive at school safe, on-time, and ready to learn.
- **Unemployment Insurance Already Paid.** Durham School Services already pays unemployment insurance and recognizes that its contributions to the system will increase should SB 38 pass and enable contracted bus drivers to claim unemployment benefits. We believe that our contracted drivers should receive the benefit of the contributions we make to the system.
- **Fairness and Seasonality.** School bus drivers who claim unemployment benefits do so because they have no other employment options during the summer months. Some drivers do find other seasonal work, but for others, there is simply no option. Durham believes that it is unfair that some individuals who find themselves without work through no fault of their own are allowed to claim unemployment benefits while others are not.

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We thank you, in advance, for your consideration of our views. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Richardson, our Outside Counsel on Government Affairs, at (773) 867-8636 or via email at krichardson@heartlandsolutionsgroup.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Mosqueda".

Chuck Mosqueda
Region Manager, Midwest