



# Support School Bus Drivers Unemployment Legislation

## Retention, Equity and Safety

In Minnesota, School Bus drivers don't get unemployment insurance when they aren't working in the summer!

- Please go to <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/> or Google "who represents me MN" to find out who your legislators are and ask them to support HF988 (Bernardy) and SF1318 (Abeler)

### Equity

- Payments, Bills, Groceries, Transportation & Fuel costs do not stop during the summer break, School Bus drivers still have to pay for them.
- Currently under Minnesota law, school bus drivers working for an independently owned bus company are ineligible for Unemployment benefits even though the Employer is required to pay for those benefits. In Minnesota employees in most other industries qualify for Unemployment benefits when laid-off due to lack of work.

### Retention

- Any increased premiums would likely be off-set by not having to pay \$2,000+ sign-on bonuses (sometimes \$3,000 if referred by a current employee) and 40 hours plus of training expenses. With turnover of drivers currently in excess of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the workforce annually, this legislation will help School Bus companies retain drivers from year to year and provide safe transportation for our Children.
- These jobs require a specialized license, CDL, of which there is a nationwide shortage. Many drivers take that same CDL to other industries when looking for summer work and never return to driving School Bus. Many states that offer unemployment to School Bus Drivers see only a 10-15% annual turnover.
- Many School Bus drivers are single women who are allowed to bring their children on the bus while they are working but during the summer could not afford child care even if they were to pursue a temporary part-time job.

### Safety

- School bus drivers have the most precious cargo in the world: our children. We have constant safety training throughout the year to improve our driving skills. When a driver has to find another job because they cannot afford to continue being a school bus driver the districts, the community and our children lose that experience on the road.
- What is more important than the SAFE transportation of our children???
- Allowing drivers to have unemployment will give them economic security throughout the whole year and allow them to focus on their main job.