



February 5, 2015

To: House Committee on Business and Labor  
From: Health Care for All Oregon

Re: Health Care for All Oregon Support of HB 4086

Chair Holvey and Committee Members,

Health Care for All Oregon, a coalition of over 120 organizations and 17,000 statewide health reform activists supports HB 4086 to provide unemployment benefits for locked out workers.

Since August of 2015, almost 6 months, Allegheny Technologies Incorporated has locked out 2200 Steelworkers in 6 states and 12 different worksites including 180 members of the United Steelworker Local 7150 in Albany, Oregon.

These workers have been trying to maintain their families on employment benefits since that time. The NLRB investigation has found that ATI has committed unfair bargaining practices. The matter awaits a hearing. In the meantime, the parties are back at the table but the lock-out remains in place.

The issues are retiree and active health care, VEBA funding and economics, scheduling, contracting out, and two tier benefits applied to new hires.

Being locked out means they cannot go to work even if they wanted too. They watch every day as replacement workers from out of state, being put up in hotels, walk in and work Local 7150 members' jobs. Being locked out is like being fired. And in this case the NLRB is saying without cause (bad faith bargaining). ATI has caused tremendous damage and hardship to USW Local 7150 members and our Oregon communities.

We ask the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 4086 to support these workers and their families (and those in similar situations in the future) by extending unemployment benefits.

Yours Respectfully,

Lee Mercer, President  
Health Care for All Oregon

Lou Sinniger, Union Caucus Chair  
Health Care for All Oregon