

From the Desk of Representative Willy Chotzen



Support SB 916 B

SB 916 B simply helps level the playing field by helping make sure that workers are not starved into a contract that is unfair or unsafe. Workers know that it will ultimately lead to swifter contract resolution – thus preventing or shortening strikes – by incentivizing the employer to get to their last, best and final offer sooner.

PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS MAKE OUR STATE RUN

- Despite state and local government employees making on average 17.6% less than similarly educated private-sector employees, workers in cities and counties are critical to our overall economy
- Only 2 strikes in Oregon since 2021 have been by county workers and none of those has lasted more than 14 days.
- State workers have not struck since 1995 (and it did not go over 14 days) and city workers have not seen a strike since the 1970s.

THE PUBLIC SECTOR MYTH ABOUT COST

- Public sector workers' salaries are budgeted at the beginning of the fiscal year. When a worker goes out on strike, they are not being paid, so their salary is in reserve.
- UI benefits are 40 - 60% wage replacement, far less than the budgeted salary.
- These workers should not be easily nor readily replaced, particularly when an employer refuses to negotiate in good faith

FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS, STRIKES ALREADY CANNOT LEGALLY OCCUR UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN MORE THAN 210 DAYS OF BARGAINING WITH MEDIATION

