

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham and members of the committee,

I am writing this testimony in support of senate bill 916 which would repeal the law blocking unemployment benefits to workers on strike. I was a MedTech for 14 years in memory care. Four years ago, I was working in a facility where we were severely short staffed and short on supplies. Residents were dying at an alarming rate, 21 deaths in 6 weeks.

I felt there was no other option but to try and fight to get a union to change the working conditions and living conditions for my residents, to literally save their lives. We presented signed cards to management in hopes they would recognize our union and begin negotiations. They did not recognize, and we were forced to go on strike. At that time, we were not part of a union, so we did not know where we were going to get our income from. I am the sole provider for my family, and I felt stuck. I needed to save my residents at any cost. It was truly a financial struggle to stay afloat during this time.

If I would have had unemployment benefits this would have taken care of my family in a situation where I really had no choice but to go on strike and miss work. Please pass SB 916 to support striking workers in their time of need.

Sincerely,

Summer Trosko