

Submitter: Lynnea Paul RN  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB916  
RE: Support for SB 916

To the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

I am currently on strike as a represented ONA Providence RN. This would be so helpful. These large corporations, like Providence, have all the power, and usually the deep pockets to outlast their striking employees. I feel they would be more motivated to TRULY negotiate in good faith if they knew the workers had the ability to hold the line for as long as they needed to get their employer to give them a fair contract. Especially, if they have to help fund their employees unemployment pay. Providence did not start negotiating honestly with us until they were pressured by the Governor and the community. I 100 percent believe Providence's plan was to basically drag this out so that the backpay they owed each of us equals the loss of pay during the strike, so we would truly not be made "whole" in the end. ONA itself was helpful, but they do not have as deep of pockets as Providence either, providing hardship funds to the most in need, possible the only way some were able to hold the line because of this fund. We cannot sustain this as long as Providence can, them being a \$29 billion dollar company. I have had to use my "emergency funds", apply for the hardship funds, and ask for assistance from my utility and mortgage companies. Who the mortgage company did grant a forbearance, but I still need to pay that back at the end of the forbearance. Now at the end here, I feel we are having to concede to them because we simply can't outlast them financially. We are all deeply hurt that we are possible not going to get as good of a contract because they will not budge on key points because they know we cannot sustain this strike. I myself am the breadwinner, and this has been stressful worrying about how the bills are going to be paid, have a roof over our heads, and have healthcare insurance. I should be able to focus on supporting my brothers and sisters on the line without distress. Having unemployment would ease some of that strain.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support,  
Lynnea Paul RN