

Submitter: Oregon Nurse
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 in support of striking workers being able to receive unemployment after 7 days of striking. My company has been out 3.5 weeks and it is unknown how much longer it will be. The company told the public they were negotiating yet they were not. They have practiced many unfair labor practices and have refused to negotiate or to settle on an agreement. They are dragging their feet - they have much bigger pockets than the staff that are outside picketing.

In the meantime, striking worker's are trying to better serve the community for the sustainability of the Oregon healthcare system on which we all rely. on. We are trying to make the hospital a safe place for our patients and ourselves. Patients and communities are primary in why healthcare workers build strong contract campaigns, up to and including when necessary, going on strike. Speaking up for safety is a number one priority in healthcare. it is a basic right. If we do not stand up for safety, who will?

The financial hardship as a striking worker is very scary. To be without a paycheck for weeks at a time is very stressful, especially, as a single parent income. Why not negotiate fairly and propose a reasonable contract. Why spend millions of dollars on strike workers- just resolve the conflict with the staff / workers you have.

Unemployment benefits would help ease the stress of feeding my family and paying my bills. It is very scary when there is limited funds. The bills do not stop just because you are out on strike.

I believe it would have been easier on the bargaining unit and staff members to feel more comfortable doing an open ended strike. The unknown is very scary - an emotional rollercoaster as to am I going to be able to stay afloat and how long will I be able to sustain myself and my family during an open ended strike.

Please consider this bill,
Oregon Nurse