

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,

As nurses, striking is a last resort. When we undertook the vote for an indefinite strike it was because we were out of options and needed to use the lever of our labor to force our hospital executives to bargain in good faith.

Unfortunately, what then happened and continues to happen is a game of 'chicken' between us, the nurses on strike who are going without pay, without PTO accrual, and a possible future cancellation of our health insurance, and hospital executives with very deep pockets and a desire to resist bargaining in good faith by dragging things out as long as possible.

Some of my colleagues were in great distress when it came time to strike as they could not join us due financial reasons, health reasons, or both. A single mother and sole provider for her children could not afford to lose her income. A nurse needed to keep accruing PTO to plan for a necessary surgery and subsequent time needed for recovery.

Having the ability to file for unemployment would have meant they would have the option to stand united with us. And it would remove some of the union breaking tactics our employer has been using against us, nullified the game of 'chicken'.

Help us prevent strikes or keep strikes short so that we can return to caring for our community. Allow striking providers to file for unemployment.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support,  
Oregon Nurse