

Submitter: Susan Tumanoff 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 never thought I would join a union or go on strike but here we are. I started my nursing career in a time where you worked with the people that would be judging your worth. They knew that by treating their employees well, they would get employees who were willing to work hard for them. Those days are now long gone. We aren't valued for doing a good job but seen as an expense that needs to be minimized. Decisions are made by people who are miles away and who receive million-dollar salaries and bonuses off the sweat of our labor.

It isn't right and it isn't fair; joining unions and going on strike has become our only option. But even that is biased towards the employers, as they have financial resources they can draw upon. Many employees are just starting out, may be single parents, have large medical expenses (which is a whole other topic that needs fixing) or a multitude of other reasons that make it financial impossible to survive a long strike without wages. So instead of bargaining in good faith, employers drag things out in hopes of forcing employees back to work without any changes in their working conditions.

Senate Bill 916/House Bill 3434 would provide unemployment benefits to employees dealing with prolonged strikes; thereby leveling the playing field between employers and employees. If employers know there is no benefit to using delay tactics; hopefully they would start bargaining in good faith sooner, leading to shorter strikes, which benefits the community as a whole. It is time for this change and you can make it happen by passing Senate Bill 916/House Bill 3434.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.
Susan Tumanoff RN