

Oregon Nurse in Happy Valley  
February 5, 2025  
Testimony in Support of UI for Striking Workers

To the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

I went on strike because I strongly believe in the importance of safety for both patients and nurses. In doing so, I sacrificed my income to stand up for this crucial issue and joined the picket line, fully aware that strike workers don't get unemployment benefits currently. I read emails from my employer stating that all employees who choose to strike (or speak up for their rights and safety) will not be eligible for unemployment benefits. This situation has placed immense leverage in the hands of our employers, causing many to succumb to fear.

Since January 10th, my family has faced significant financial hardship while I continue to strike as I was the major source of income for my family. During my time on the picket lines, I was constantly worried about loss of income to support my family. I firmly believe that passing this bill is essential so that everyone can apply for unemployment benefits while advocating for their rights and what's best for Oregonians. If I had this benefit, I would be able to food on my table, keep my home, pay my bills and the list goes on. Strikers are already sacrificing a lot be on strike, and they should not have to worry about not being able to apply for unemployment benefits when needed. This will also help our bargaining team and ease their way to bargain with my employer.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I hope you will consider supporting the passage of this important bill to ensure that families like mine are not left in such vulnerable situations.

—Oregon Nurse in Happy Valley