

Submitter: Rita Coghill 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,

My husband and I are both nurses for Providence. We fully believe in what Providence says their mission is, however, they do not uphold the standards to make those beliefs happen. We want to care for people to the best of our ability! We want better pay and insurance and I am willing to fight and strike for that. However, my main concern is unit based staffing on acuity. Which is also a main striking concern. Hospitals are admitting sicker and sicker patients, some do not need to go to ICU but ONLY if we are able to understand a unit based directive on staffing! Keeping people alive is not something Providence can fit into a regimented staffing plan. Nursing units MUST be able to fight for the safety of their patients which means the ratio of nurse to patient depends on the situation of the specific unit on each shift. My husband and I both are here to serve and heal but in the Providence system it feels so unfair and completely against the Providence mission. Money should not be more important than saving lives and Providence pretends to be an organization based on easing people's way.... This is not true. I have been a nurse at the same Providence hospital for ten years and I have worked almost every unit. I have also been a charge nurse for 5 of those years, a preceptor for new hires and an educator for new nurses. I can 100% say patient care is not at the top of the list as far as upper management is concerned and this is only because Prov execs are not nurses, they are specialized in corporate business tactics. Hospitals have strike insurance, nurses do not. Nurses ACTUALLY SAVE LIVES! I feel having strike insurance could help us fight for our beliefs which are: safe staffing ratios on a unit based decision, adequate insurance especially within the company we work for and equal pay compared to similar hospitals in the area. Please help us fight for patient safety and adequate health insurance as well as realistic pay in the areas we live so we can continue to provide effective and loving patient care. Strike insurance would help us fight to get what we need to keep experienced nurses in the acute hospitals. Retaining nurses so they are experienced is the number one priority to create effective patient care in life saving situations.

Thank you for accepting my testimony and I look forward to your support.  
Rita Coghill RN